



CELEBRATING DADS

Sunday is Father's Day. Always held on the third Sunday in June, the day celebrates fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. It was first celebrated in 1910.



HOW FLOODING AFFECTS WATERLIFE

Last July's Great Vermont Flood severely damaged aquatic life, accumulating sand, silt, and loam, and increasing recovery time for species. But human responses have caused the greatest threat.

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CALLING ALL BIKEPACKERS

Vermont Bikepackers is offering a free off-road ride and campout in Green Mountain National Forest this weekend. Come learn the ins and outs to bikepacking for new summer adventures.

Page 17



By Paul Holmes

Full of hot air

This weekend, June 14-16, the skies over the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire will be filled with hot air balloons during the longest running hot air balloon festival in New England. See page 14 for a full schedule of events for the weekend.

Many area school districts are still working to pass budgets

By Polly Mikula

While voters in at least half a dozen districts approved spending plans last Tuesday, June 4, there are still almost a dozen districts in Vermont without an approved budget.

Locally, Green Mountain Unified School District and Two Rivers Supervisory Union passed their budgets, in addition to Milton Town School District, Champlain Islands Unified School District, Franklin West Supervisory Union, Twinfield Union School District, and Lake Region Union Elementary Middle School District (by only two votes).

Voters in Andover, Baltimore Proctorsville and Chester approved the Green Mountain Unified School District budget of \$16,576,447 — resulting in education spending of \$12,361 per long term weighted equalized pupil. The board cut nearly \$900,000 from its original proposal.

The Ludlow Mount Holly Unified School District passed its budget of \$8,812,561, after

nearly \$322,000 in cuts were made from the original proposal.

But Otter Valley, Barstow, Hartland and Slate Valley school districts still await a positive outcome and head to the polls again this week.

New school budgets take effect at the start of the new fiscal year, July 1. If a district does not have an approved budget, schools can borrow up to 87% of the prior year's budget to cover costs until a budget is passed.

Otter Valley, Barstow head to polls June 11 and June 12

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU) district school boards of Otter Valley Unified Union and Barstow Unified Union once again have retooled their budgets for a third revote June 11 and 12, respectively.

The Barstow School Board has reduced its original \$6.27 million budget to \$6.06 million for
Revotes → 7

Gov. Scott vetoes property tax bill, unsettling next year's ed funding

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

Gov. Phil Scott vetoed the annual property tax bill on Thursday, setting up a veto session showdown on a piece of legislation that must pass for schools to be funded as usual.

"We must provide property tax relief now. This can't wait for another study before implementing cost containment strategies," Scott said in a statement.

Known as the "yield bill," the annual property tax legislation helps set education tax rates statewide. As passed by the Legislature, the bill would raise the average education property tax bill by 13.8%, with actual local rates varying widely.

The tax increase, driven by surging school costs, defined this year's legislative session. Now, lawmakers must determine whether to try to override Scott's veto, or forge a new path, perhaps in collaboration with his administration.

Speaker of the House Rep. Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, expressed her disappointment with the veto in a statement Thursday afternoon.

"The governor has been unable to provide any alternative plan that would be workable for the start of the fiscal year on July 1," she said. "If we do not have a yield bill on July 1, our education system is projected to face a \$93 million ... budget deficit."

In the House, the yield bill passed 93-44. It passed the Senate 18-8.

Those numbers indicate a tight override margin, with two-thirds of each chamber needed to circumvent the governor.

At his weekly press conference Thursday, Scott said he planned to meet with House and Senate leadership next week to discuss possible compromises on the bill. He has thus far been tightlipped about the specifics of his proposals.

His ideas would likely look like past plans, specifically the administration's idea presented by Tax Commissioner Craig Bolio to defer the property tax increase across multiple years by using money from elsewhere in state government.

That idea drew disapproval from Mike Pieciak, the state treasurer, who feared it would negatively impact Vermont's bond rating.

"A lot of things that Commissioner Bolio had spoken about and testified to are part of this plan," Scott said, "but there's been a few changes."

At the Thursday press event, the governor was adamant that it was not worth even contemplating what would happen if no version of the yield bill passed.

"We'll come to some agreement before that happens," he said. "I just don't think that that should be a consideration."

Soon after his veto announcement, Scott sent out a campaign blast promoting his rejection of the "historic property tax hike."

"The Governor tried to work with lawmakers to prevent
Yield bill → 4

Building a stronger Killington-Rutland community: Essential nonprofits tackle tough issues

Vermont's vibrant spirit thrives on a network of over 7,000 nonprofits; some 1,500 of them in the Killington-Rutland region alone. Considering that number, it's not surprising that some of these organizations prompt the question: "Why does that nonprofit exist?" Yet, the ones that tackle tough issues and enrich lives spark admiring comments, like "Imagine how awful it would be if that organization did not exist!"

Essential nonprofits are in that latter category. The answer lies in their impact. They are the ones that address serious challenges — such as access to food, safety, housing, medical care, and security — for some of Vermont's most vulnerable populations. They provide crucial services for our children, teens, and older residents, as well as educating future leaders and advancing entrepreneurs. They create assets that enliven our downtowns, and celebrate diversity, equity and inclusion, while also enhancing our rural heritage.

They also happen to be nonprofits that retain talented staff, committed volunteers and donors who support their mission, vision and values on a regular basis. They readily answer the "why" with clarity, purpose, and courtesy.

Since the pandemic, several visionary leaders of such nonprofits, as well as notable community volunteers, have been featured in this column. Those listed below are perhaps not as well known or their causes have become more crucial. Here's hoping this list sparks support for them — whether through donations, volunteering, or other resources.

Leading with honesty and heart

Audrey Bridge, director of the Community Cupboard of Rutland County since 2022, is both genial and refreshingly direct about how challenging it has become to procure enough food for "the Cupboard." She gets to her point with authority and empathy — without a shred of melodrama or self-promotion.

The power of authentic leadership

Mary Cohen, executive director of Housing Trust of Rutland County, exudes competence, confidence, and compassion in all her interactions, whether with beneficiaries, or with board members and other advocates. Housing is one of Vermont's most pressing and often controversial issues, and Cohen's approach is an inspiration to other community leaders.



For the Greater Good
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

Building a more inclusive community

William Fourney-Mills, executive director of Rutland County Pride, champions the LGBTQIA+ community. His data speaks volumes — in a recent conversation Fourney-Mills cited surveys that reveal a surge in people relocating to Rutland County due to Pride's positive influence. "We rank higher than Burlington for LGBTQIA quality of life," Fourney-Mills declared.

Empowering newcomers

Ellen Green and Naomi Fatt are just two of the courageous leaders of Bridge to Rutland, a nonprofit that helps asylum seekers find housing, resources, education, and legal aid in Rutland County. In just three years, BTR has become an authoritative partner spearheading Rutland's efforts to become more diverse, inclusive and welcoming.

Championing Vermont's future

Kevin Chu, executive director of The Vermont Futures Project, enthusiastically engages supporters and doubters alike in statewide discussions about Vermont's economic future. In his presentations, Chu fosters respectful dialogue while emphasizing how intersecting economic development, environmental sustainability and social justice is essential for Vermont's future. He exudes appreciation for every person who engages him — regardless of age, gender, income, or ethnic group.

The power of one

Roger Louiselle is a one-man testament to the power of community engagement; his responsiveness to family, neighbors and colleagues makes him a local hero. Louiselle serves on the board of the Housing Trust of Rutland County, and for almost five decades, has been an avid member of the Rutland South Rotary Club, whose primary cause is education. The Club's annual fundraising event draws hundreds to the Spartan Arena and, since 1982, Rutland South Rotary has contributed over a million dollars to the Rutland community.

Unleashing creativity, inspiring new careers

Kim Griffin, executive director of the MINT, dubbed "Rutland's Makerspace," oversees a 14,000-square-foot facility that offers a breadth and depth of activities, workshops, and networking opportunities. Many of them are focused on STEAM

projects — science, technology, engineering, art and architecture, and math — all of which are essential to Vermont's future.

Revitalizing the downtown core

Hali Issente, the new director of the Downtown Rutland Partnership, is one of those extroverts who always has a sincere smile, even when face to face with a confrontational community advocate. Issente's fans cite his seemingly boundless energy and sincere optimism as he begins to develop new activities to boost the economic impact of Merchants Row.

A legacy of giving

Steve Costello, the retired Green Mountain Power executive whose leadership of the Gift-of-Life Marathon for countless years has resulted in thousands of people donating blood, continues his quest to boost Rutland's quality of life. His vigorous fundraising on behalf of the downtown Rutland Sculpture Trail, has delighted forward-thinking Rutlanders and visitors alike, most especially those who understand that such art exhibits not only illuminate our rich history but provide inspiration to transform our future.

Quiet hero

Bobby Poquette is considered by many Rutlanders the most dedicated volunteer in the region for his work, especially on behalf of the American Cancer Society's local Relay for Life. Poquette was recently touted by WCAX-TV's Joe Carroll, in his popular segment, Super Seniors.

As Carroll noted, "Many people measure success by the car you drive or the college you attend. Poquette has neither, but he might be the richest man in Rutland."

Choosing to make a difference

With 1,500 nonprofits, and counting, in the Rutland region alone, choosing where to lend support can be challenging. All the more reason astute donors and other community advocates look to support nonprofits that have a strong board, talented leaders, an essential mission and solid vision, stable finances, dedicated staff and enthusiastic volunteers. Those are also the nonprofits whose leaders can clearly explain why their nonprofits exist. Even more important, they can clearly demonstrate the void the community would experience if they ceased to exist.

Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is principal and owner of Liz DiMarco Weinmann Consulting, L3C, based in Rutland, serving charitable educational institutions: lizdimarcoweinmann.com.

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Hartland board to propose new vendors' ordinance

By Curt Peterson

The Hartland Select Board refined a proposed new Vendors' Ordinance to replace the original that's been in effect since 1996.

According to Town Manager John Broker-Campbell, "There are minor changes which will hopefully help to clear up any confusion or ambiguity on the applicability of the ordinance."

The Select Board will next schedule a public hearing. A notice will go out through the town website and appropriate public postings.

The ordinance, which was originally enacted in 1995 at the behest of then selectwoman Pat Richardson, was intended to control use by vendors and organizations of various public areas in town. The impetus, Richardson told the Mountain Times, was haphazard parking and pedestrian traffic that posed danger to people and impediment to traffic.

One cited pre-ordinance vendor was a fishmonger who sold his wares from a truck in front of Damon Hall. The current vendors' ordinance prohibits selling anything on land surrounding Damon Hall. As far as anyone knows, the ordinance was never enforced. In fact, the non-profit Hartland Garden Club claims to have held its successful annual plant sale on the front lawn for 25 years with no one questioning its legality.

The club had raised the plants and put hours and days of work into preparation for the sale this spring.

That is, until 2024, when Broker-Campbell, asking for town permission to hold the sale, discovered the 1995

ordinance and felt it should be enforced. This put the Select Board in a tough situation, the solution for which was suspension of the ordinance "just this once", and a promise to "take a look" at how the ordinance could be changed to reflect current Hartland culture.

The Garden Club sale was a huge success and raised over \$2,000 that will be invested in various beautification projects around town, including the pollinator garden in front of Damon Hall they created this spring.

The most important change in the ordinance is, "At the Town Manager's discretion, a permit can be issued for the front lawn of Damon Hall for not-for-profit Hartland community groups, provided that they conduct business in a manner safe to traffic and pedestrians."

Prohibition of vending activities on state or town highways or on town properties around Hartland still stands.

If the ordinance becomes law, following a public hearing and selectboard approval, the Hartland Garden Club can start preparations for the 2025 sale and apply for their permit.

Carol Stedman, club member and an avid advocate for the plant sale, is very pleased with the proposal.

"I think this is a reasonable amendment that will inspire the club to get to work planning and planting for next year's sale," she told the Mountain Times.

"The sale provides us with the resources we need to do our projects around Hartland, enhancements that benefit the whole community," Stedman added.

For more information visit: hartland.govoffice.com.

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Killington road work extends into Saturday morning

Drilling and blasting will continue this week at the intersection of Route 4 and Killington Road in Killington. A detour remains in place via West Hill Road.

As the project approaches the scheduled end date of July 8, work to haul out rock will occur on Saturdays till about noon time going forward, Markowski Excavating, Inc. explained.

"Although the second drill rig was supposed to arrive last week, it will be on site either Monday or Tuesday. [We] expect delivery of the drill and another delivery of blasting mats to arrive either of these days," Markowski continued in a update in advance of this week's roadwork. "They will start drilling down near Route 4, then work up the east side of the access road to remove remaining ledge. Due to timing, there may be multiple blasts per day if it lines up. Traffic will be stopped for those shots, so be aware of flaggers on the road to stop vehicles for 5-10 minutes."

Otherwise, as has been the case for the past month, there'll be one blast daily between 11 a.m. and 12-noon, "but if there is any unforeseen delays it could be as late as 1 p.m.," Markowski noted.

Work this week will focus on installing the sewer structures and pipe along Route 4.

"We will then focus the second half of the week on installing water and sewer line away from Route 4 south on



By Pat Wise

Construction continues at the base of Killington Road where it intersects with Route 4.

the Access Road. As this progresses, expect more sand and gravels to be installed to build up the road base," Markowski noted.

Work for the following week, beginning June 17, will be a continuation of drilling and blasting rock with dump trucks entering and exiting the site to load out rock.

Sewer line installation will continue to be installed up the east side of

Killington Road.

"In addition, we will be also working to install the future water line along the west side of the Access Road. Again, as these two lines are installed, we will continue to install the sand and gravel layers which will be just below final pavement layer," Markowski noted.

A continuation of dust control will occur as needed with warmer and drier weather.

MOUNTAIN TIMES

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Yale student wrote her thesis on Vermont's school mergers, found they don't save much

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

While studying economics and education at Yale University, Grace Miller found a surprise topic on the agenda: Vermont's one-of-a-kind school funding formula.

The 22-year-old from Newport and her classmates learned about the *Brigham decision*, a 1997 Vermont Supreme Court case that found the state's education finance system was unconstitutional.

In response to the case, the state Legislature passed Act 60, which created a funding system that allowed towns to pay equal tax rates for equal spending, regardless of local property wealth.

When Miller heard about this history in class, it took her aback. "They were like, Vermont had this crazy court case. And you know, now they finance their education system in a really, really unique way, and it's really equitable," she said. "I had never heard of any of that."

Inspired, Miller decided to dive into Vermont's education finance system as part of her undergraduate thesis. Her topic: do school district mergers, like the ones prompted by the passage of Act 46 in 2015, save money?

Not exactly, she found.

Miller's analysis focused on 109 school districts — 49 that underwent mergers and 60 that did not — tracking spending in a variety of categories both before and after mergers.

"I didn't find any significant savings in spending per pupil between the merged and the non-merged districts," she said, summarizing her findings.

In Vermont, lawmakers hoped school district mergers would streamline governance, improve educational outcomes and opportunities, and create cost efficiencies.

Miller did find that merging reduced administrative costs — about \$387 per pupil. Merging also reduced the costs of contracted services (such as part-time special ed help) by \$2,169 per pupil, according to her analysis.

Yet cost reductions were mostly nullified by increased spending elsewhere, Miller found, particularly on salaries, benefits and transportation.

And overall, according to her analysis, merged districts saw a slight dip in tax rates in the first year following the merger, compared to non-merged districts, but there was



Submitted

Grace Miller studied Vermont school mergers for her thesis at Yale University.

no significant difference in tax rates after that.

Understanding that her quantitative work could only go so far, Miller also sought to understand mergers qualitatively, interviewing superintendents and principals about their experiences.

One effect Miller found was rhetorical. People began thinking about "our district" rather than "our school," she said, which led to more equitable decision making across a district.

But some school leaders said mergers, and with them merged school boards, made "conversations more difficult" with more decision makers involved. Mergers also led to budgets with a higher overall dollar amount, which could lead to sticker shock for voters, even if spending per student didn't actually rise.

In one instance, two principals in the same district provided conflicting takes on whether or not their merger saved money, Miller found.

"A lot of people just said merging did nothing," she said.

Regardless of individual opinions on mergers, Miller found that school and district leaders felt passionately, and were eager to talk in a year when school spending has dominated local and legislative conversations across the state.

"Education finance is the conversation, and everyone has a lot to say," she said.

As Miller began her senior year project, she said she was "shocked just how difficult it was" to procure data and find contacts for school leaders across the state. With the help of the Vermont Agency of Education, she received school district expenditure information from 2009-2023.

Few people seemed to agree on the exact purpose of Vermont's school district mergers, Miller said.

"Everyone is on a different page, and the lack of quantitative data doesn't help at all," she argued.

And if an additional goal is to better student outcomes, Miller said further research will need to determine whether that has happened, starting with deciding what the best metrics are to measure those outcomes.

Fresh off graduating, Miller has moved to Tennessee, where she'll work as a public school teacher. She said she hopes to do more work on education finance in the future — perhaps in graduate school — acknowledging that her work as an undergrad could only go so deep.

Part of that drive to dig deeper comes from wanting a bigger library of research regarding Vermont's education finance system, she said. The topic is, after all, personal to her.

Going to school in the Northeast Kingdom's North Country Supervisory Union, "We are very keenly aware of how the state and others interact with our district versus the others," Miller said.

North Country's residents decided not to merge, leaving

The 22-year-old student studying economics and education analyzed 109 school districts across the state.

about a dozen individual school districts. That leads to increased local control, Miller ventured, but also a perhaps unwieldy web of districts.

"We do kind of have an insane system," she said, "And I can see the thought process for trying to reorganize these educational governance structures."

← Yield bill: from page 1

this unacceptable tax hike, but they moved forward anyway," the message read, with a large "contribute" button at the bottom. "We need your help to elect more legislators who agree that Vermonters have had enough."

Every year, the yield bill originates in the House Committee on Ways and Means. Reached Thursday, Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, the committee's chair, suggested the governor's veto sent the wrong message to the education community.

"It tells all of the teachers and school staff and kids working really hard right now all across the state that we're not invested in their future and their work," she said. "I agree the property taxes are really, really hard, and not what we want Vermonters to be managing, but I have not seen another proposal."

Contrary to the governor's comments that legislative leadership didn't want to discuss property tax policy until after his veto, Kornheiser said she has sought a meeting with the administration since soon after adjournment last month — without success.

"I know he's mentioned in press conferences a secret proposal," Kornheiser said, "but a secret proposal doesn't

help Vermonters."

What happens without a yield bill?

The yield bill sets property taxes at the rate needed to fund school budgets and other education costs.

Without a bill passed to fund education this next year, the homestead yield, the number used to set tax rates for homeowners, would revert to last year's figure, as would the metric for people who pay based on income. As a result, homeowners would experience much lower taxes than they're currently expecting.

But nonhomestead taxpayers, however, would be in for a much larger tax increase than expected to fund education. The nonhomestead property tax rate — the rate paid by landlords, businesses and second home owners — is set at \$1.59, about 20 cents more than the nonhomestead rate set in this year's property tax legislation.

This year's yield bill also included other revenues in

the form of a short-term rental tax and a tax on software accessed over the internet, together projected to raise about \$27 million. Without those revenues, the spending gap is higher.

The combination of lower-than-expected homestead taxes and vanishing alternative revenue streams together would result in the \$93 million funding gap the state would face without a yield bill.

Some of that deficit could come from the education fund's stabilization reserve. But projected to have about \$52 million, the reserve couldn't fill the entire hole.

In a session driven by the cost of education, lawmakers used the yield bill as a vehicle for education policy, also now potentially

on the chopping block. The legislation included the creation of a commission on the future of public education, which would be tasked with, among other things, coming up with cost containment mechanisms for down the road.

"I agree the property taxes are really, really hard, and not what we want Vermonters to be managing, but I have not seen another proposal," said Kornheiser.



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Vermonters deserve affordability, but Gov. Scott has no 'grand plan'

By Rep. Rebecca Holcombe

Editor's note: Holcombe is the state house representative for Windsor-Orange 2 and member of the Vermont House Appropriations Committee. She also served as the Vermont Secretary of Education 2014-2018.

It's groundhog day. Governor Scott vetoed the yield bill, again leaving Vermont school districts adrift. The reason: all the school budgets voters approved add up to more than Governor Scott wants them to spend.

None of us like an increase. Some legislators are leaving because they can't afford to serve. We need people to call our communities home, operate our businesses, care for us when we are sick, and educate our children. We know property taxes affect the cost of housing. That cost is making too many people say "no, thanks."

However, exactly what the Governor expects the Legislature and local school districts to cut is a mystery. As Seven Days noted: "Scott cautioned the public not to expect he'll have any grand new proposals."

So, why the veto? We need real leadership — not politicking — to move us forward.

Health insurance premiums are up by double digits for yet another year, not just for school budgets (almost \$50 million or 5 cents on the tax rate), but also for the state budget, business budgets, municipal budgets, and family budgets. Out-of-control health care costs hurt everybody, but we can't fix them at our kitchen tables or in school board meetings. What has Governor Scott done — not said — to help?

Rising costs associated with mental health demands explain another 5 cents of the increase in this year's property tax rate. Addressing mental health means treating risks at the source, including supporting parents, so parents can support their children. For that, the governor needs to bring his social service agencies — or what is left of them — to the conversation.

Increased infrastructure costs explain another 5 cents of the increase, and are aggravated by ambitious but poorly thought out policy on PCB mitigation. We need the governor's help on this, too. What we have instead: the administration continues to turn up problems then leave solutions (and cost) to others.

We could reduce and improve "courses" by bringing more children into fewer, more robust schools. The state's actions do the opposite.

proposal would erode our state's credit rating, making the future even more unaffordable.

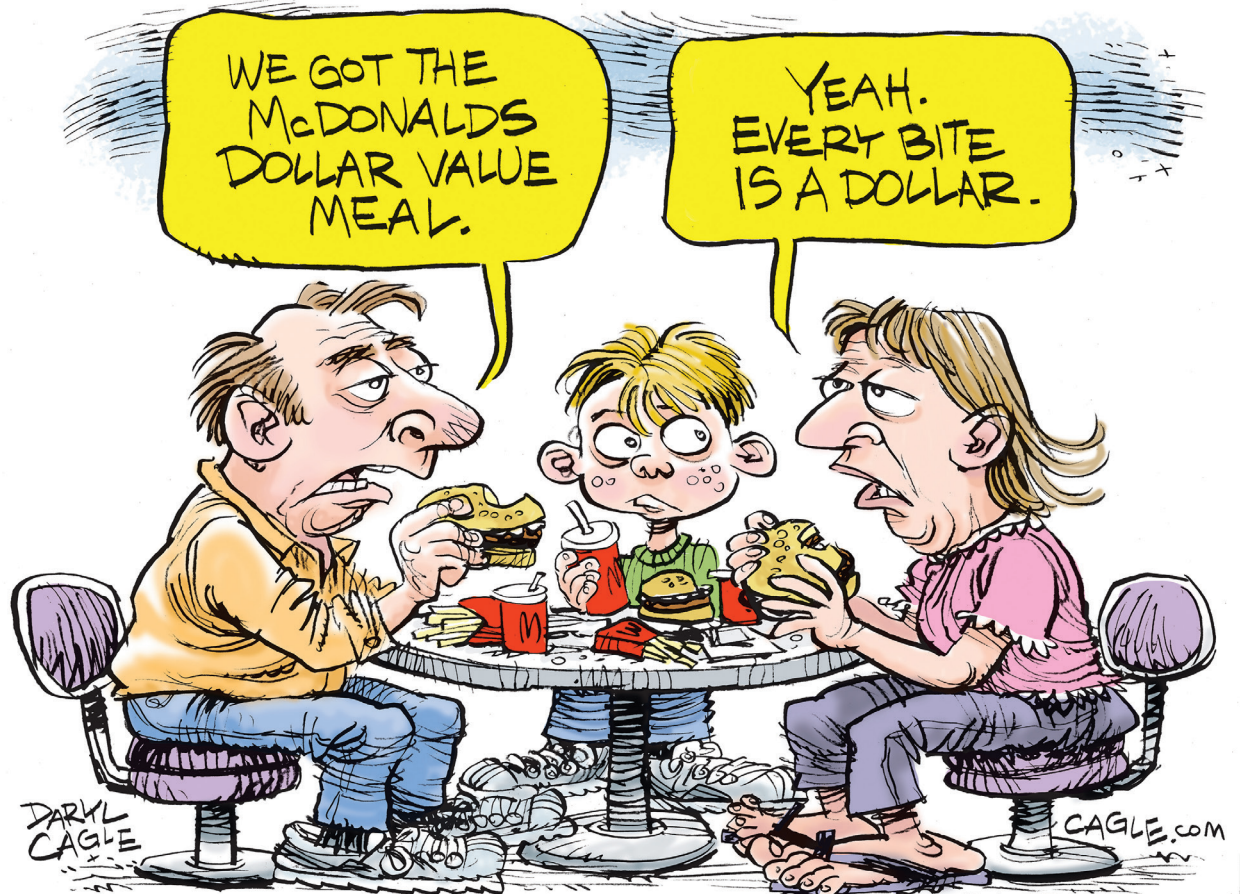
As he did in 2018, the governor insisted on using "one-time money" to pay for ongoing costs — a bad and unsustainable business practice. The Legislature compromised by using \$70 million for this purpose. Now, there are no

The administration continues to turn up problems then leave solutions (and cost) to others.

Just those items alone account for most of this year's tax spike.

Governor Scott claims he has no "grand solutions." His one big idea was to borrow from the future to pay for today. Then State Treasurer Picciak noted that this

No grand plan → 8



Dollar Value Meal by Daryl Cagle, CagleCartoon

LETTERS

Override Scott's veto to protect pollinator, ecosystem, public health

Dear Editor,

In the peaceful farmlands and meadows of Vermont, a silent emergency unfolds. Bees, the heart of our agricultural ecosystem, face unprecedented threats to their survival. Despite Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Market reports claiming that bee populations are thriving, beekeepers around the state emphasize the deteriorating health of their colonies. These adverse health outcomes can be attributed to neonicotinoid pesticides, a class of insecticides that are highly toxic to bees and other pollinators. They attack both the nervous and immune systems of the bee, subjecting them to disorientation, paralyzation, and disease. In 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency predicted that these chemicals are currently driving over 200 species toward extinction. Recent research from the Vermont Bee Lab has uncovered alarming truths: over 30% of the state's pollen samples collected contained traces of neonicotinoids.

On May 20, ironically falling on World Bee Day,

Governor Phil Scott vetoed H.706, a bill proposing to ban these harmful insecticides in Vermont. On June 17, legislators will have the chance to override Scott's decision with a two-thirds majority in favor of the bill. As legislators weigh the fate of H.706, it is imperative to recognize its potential to safeguard our pollinators, human health, the millions of dollars in ecosystem services they provide, and preserve our agricultural heritage.

The collateral damage inflicted upon honeybee colonies by these pesticides is not just an environmental concern but a direct threat to livelihoods and food security. Bees are a keystone species, meaning their health and role in the ecosystem are imperative. The decline of bee health and productivity echoes across our agricultural landscape, jeopardizing crop yields and ecosystem health.

Furthermore, humans can be exposed to neonicotinoids through environmental contamination. Runoff of these chemicals

Pollinators → 8

Short-term rentals are a scapegoat for every housing issue

Dear Editor,

Short-term rental owners are not the evil housing tycoons we are sometimes made out to be. Vacation rentals peppered around our state make up just 2.5% of our housing stock yet contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to our state budget in the form of rooms/meals taxes and consumer spending.

I've lived in Guilford for

tourism ambassador for southern Vermont, and it's the best job I've ever had.

I'm personally not interested in turning my property into a long-term rental. I prefer working in Vermont's thriving hospitality industry, which caters to the millions of tourists we rely on to keep our downtown businesses open. I hire local contractors and provide

It seems obvious to me that growing tourism — and not over-taxing tourists and those that support them — is the key to increasing revenue to support state spending.

30 years and have operated a small vacation rental on my property for the past 11 years, serving thousands of guests who graciously support our local economy. They are consistent customers in our restaurants, cafés, country stores, theaters, shops and galleries. I cater to couples and solo travelers of all genders, races and ages. I've hosted honeymooners, engagements, elopers and writers.

I consider myself a

guests with Vermont made products.


I'm proud knowing my small business contributes to the economic vitality of my community.

It is a myth that short-term rentals are causing Vermont's housing crisis, and housing studies across the state tend to dispel this accusation.

The 2021 Brattleboro Housing Action Plan by Camoin Associates

STR → 7

CAPITOL QUOTES



France's conservative Republican leader Eric Ciotti has called for an alliance between his party's candidates and Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally in a snap parliamentary election. Mainstream parties' efforts to keep the far right out of power is blowing up following President Emmanuel Macron's unexpected decision to call snap elections. The anti-immigration, Euro-sceptic National Rally (RN) is widely expected to emerge as the strongest force, although it may fall short of an absolute majority.

“It’s unthinkable for me (and many LR MPs) that there could be the slightest agreement, the slightest alliance, even local, or personal, with the RN (National Rally),”

Philippe Gosselin, an LR lawmaker, told Reuters.

“I feel immense pain and I almost want to cry ... I find it to be an unthinkable betrayal of the heritage of Gaulleism,”

said lawyer **Franck Morel**, 55, according to AOL.

“We say the same things so let’s stop making up imagined opposition ... This is what the vast majority of our voters want. They tell us ‘reach a deal!’”

said France's conservative Republican leader **Eric Ciotti** to TF1 television according to NBC News.

“I think there’s a chance he can be made to leave, if he doesn’t go by himself, and I have no doubt it’ll happen,”

said Republican vice-president Florence Portelli suggesting the party would fire Mr. Ciotti for suggesting an accord with the far right, according to the BBC.

← Revotes:

from page 1

its third revote. Barstow provides preK-8 education to students in Chittenden and Mendon.

The Otter Valley School Board cut \$430,000 for its third vote and is now asking voters to approve \$26,808,822. The result of the cuts would put per-pupil spending at \$12,355, which is lower than the \$12,436 figure that the April 23 version of the budget represented.

OVUUS delivers preK-12 public education to students in Brandon, Leicester, Whiting, Goshen, Sudbury and Pittsford.

Additionally, Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union Board (RNESU) Superintendent Kristen Hubert announced this spring she'd be leaving at the end of the school year, so the board is seeking a replacement.

“We really need someone who has lots of experience,” said Laurie Bertrand, chair of the RNESU Board, which oversees the OVUUS and the Barstow school districts.

The school board early this month offered the superintendent's job to Brooke Olsen-Farrell, superintendent of the Fair Haven-area Slate Valley school district. But Olsen-Farrell decided to stay where she is, Bertrand said.

The RNESU decided it really needs a new leader with a long tenure leading educational institutions, because the Brandon-area schools are losing many experienced employees due to retirement and attrition, Bertrand said. She pointed out that Michael Ruppell, principal of Otter Valley Union High School, will be among the most senior administrators in the district next year — though he's been on

the job only two years.

“We have a very young administration,” Bertrand said. “We need someone who can help everyone feel supported.”

Hartland School district to revote June 11

Hartland's school budget actually passed on Town Meeting Day, but only by 9 votes. It was petitioned and a revote was held May 28, which failed by 14. For the third vote on June 11, the board decided not to fill a recently vacated teaching position, thereby reducing the budget by \$90,539 to \$10,950,028.

Slate Valley to revote June 18

The Slate Valley Unified Union School District (SVUUSD) will head back to the polls for the fifth time Tuesday, June 18. Voters will be asked to approve a budget of \$30,497,235. Down \$524, 400 from the original budget defeated on Town Meeting Day. That budget was defeated by 464 votes, 1004-1468.

SVUUSD failed its fourth budget of \$30.8 million on May 30, but by the smallest margin yet — just 32 votes, 962-994. That budget would have resulted in a per pupil education spending of \$11,294.83.

The district serves the towns of Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell and West Haven and operates Benson Village School, Castleton Elementary School, Fair Haven Grade School, Orwell Village School and Fair Haven Middle and High Schools.

Voting results will be published on MountainTimes.info.

John Flowers contributed to this report.

← Pollinators:

from page 6

can infiltrate groundwater and surface water supplies and subsequently end up in human water sources. Neonicotinoids are linked to potential effects on human health, negatively impacting the nervous system, reproductive health, and childhood development. The inability of neurons to properly migrate is one cause of neurological disorders. Neonicotinoids decrease neurogenesis, which means neonicotinoid pesticides harm the growth of brain tissue. Thus, children's developing brains are more susceptible to the effects of environmental toxins, therefore holding negative implementations for their futures. These chemicals pose a possible public health threat that cannot be ignored.

Critics of the bill, including Scott, argue it will create new hardships for farmers and place them at a competitive disadvantage over farmers from other

states that allow these insecticides. However, the economic risk of inaction may outweigh the challenges of adjusting to the bill, considering the crucial role of pollinators in our agricultural system. Furthermore, the exemptions proposed in the bill work with farmers who face immediate pest pressures as they transition to more sustainable agricultural alternatives. Past the economics, we must not overlook ecosystem health, human well-being, and agricultural sustainability in favor of short-term agricultural convenience.

The time for action is now. The European Commission, the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and the state of New York have already placed significant bans on neonicotinoids, and it is time for Vermont to follow suit. This ban across several regions highlights the recognized harm that neonicotinoid pesticides have, even though they are

legal in the United States.

As legislators deliberate about H.706, they must look to science and the future. The bill holds critical implications for Vermont's pollinators, a decision whose impact will be felt for many generations. Vermont has the chance to stand on the right side of history, joining other governments in pioneering this essential aspect of environmental stewardship and inspiring others to adopt similar laws. For the sake of the bees, farmers, and the resilience of Vermont's natural heritage, legislature support for this bill is imperative.

Madilyn Sandy, Jericho

Editor's note: Sandy is a senior at Vassar College double majoring in environmental studies and science, technology, and society on a pre-law track. She is currently interning with CleanEarth4Kids.org, a company that fights for environmental health issues, and consulted with staff members for this letter.

← No grand plan:

from page 6

additional dollars to throw at this problem.

Voters voted on school budgets. The governor signed the state budget. At this late date, what can we cut?

We have few tools:

We could eliminate the property tax exemption for charitable and religious purposes, “saving” about 4.5 cents on the tax rate.

We could reduce or asset-test the exemption for current use, “saving” up to five cents on the rate.

We could asset-test income sensitivity, “saving” by limiting who gets this credit.

We could phase out TIF funding, which redistributes opportunity within the state, and about which the Joint Fiscal office said “the core theoretical assumption upon which tax increment calculations are based is flawed and unsupported by the data and economic theory.”

All of these actions would yield savings for the majority of taxpayers. Will the Governor advocate for them?

The reality: in education, as in health care, taxpayers are paying for too much infrastructure, both in Vermont and out of state, often in units that are too small to affordably provide quality care.

As a colleague used to say, a person can’t go to a 28 course buffet, pay only \$4, and expect the food to be edible. Too often, our answer to rising cost and sagging quality is to add another course...

We could reduce and improve “courses” by bringing more children into fewer, more robust schools. The state’s actions do the opposite.

There is no path to affordability that involves forcing public schools to compete with private schools that are narrow in

scope, out-of-state, or exclusive in enrollment. Yet, to this day, taxpayers in every community help fund tuition to:

Out-of-state prep schools for more privileged children

Even smaller private schools (including schools with no teachers),

Religious schools that refuse to comply with public accommodations laws.

None of these programs can replace public schools or inclusive private schools like Thetford Academy. And they do erode the scale and affordability of schools with a public mission.

If you support this, as the governor

: I’m disappointed we did not do better this session, but I will vote to override this veto. The bill is more responsible than the Governor’s offerings, and some of his ideas would raise taxes.

does, don’t complain about cost. This is a recipe that, across states and in Vermont, results in higher cost and worse outcomes overall.

Let’s keep our dollars in Vermont, in schools of sufficient scale, and in schools which meet the public obligations of our public education fund, as defined in our Education Quality Standards.

I’m disappointed we did not do better this session, but I will vote to override this veto. The bill is more responsible than the Governor’s offerings, and some of his ideas would raise taxes. The bill requires summer work that puts us in a different position next year. It cushions the blow this year, while protecting children and our most vulnerable taxpayers.

← STR:

from page 6

states that “short term rentals are not impacting the housing market significantly” and only 2% of this community’s housing stock is for seasonal use.

According to the town housing data report appended to the plan, a more important factor impacting housing is that 85.9% of nonfamily households (a householder living alone or with unrelated people) in Brattleboro are being lived in by only one person. This demonstrates a real lack of viable options for our growing aging population.

This is a common theme statewide. Vermont’s own housing assessment, completed by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency in 2020, again shows that short-term rentals make up a very small segment of lodging, while 69% of Vermont’s households are lived in by one or two people.

Another major finding in both studies is the lack of housing development for middle-income earners.

Additionally, Vermont’s housing data shows clusters of short-term rentals near major ski areas, which makes sense. These accommodations have been offered for rent by their out-of-state owners for decades and will most likely never join the long-term housing market, as many people wish they would.

Vermont needs different types of lodging for the different types of people and families visiting our recreational landscape. Vermont also needs the revenue

generated from lodging to pay for programs such as education and affordable housing.

Tourism in Vermont is a \$3 billion industry that supports more than 30,000 jobs, accounting for over 10% of Vermont’s workforce. Short-

ber of tourists visiting the shops and restaurants in our downtowns.

In their zeal to “raise revenue” by taxing tourists, will our state



term rentals alone contributed \$54 million in meals and rooms taxes (25% of which goes directly to the state’s Education Fund).

According to the Vermont Short-Term Rental Alliance, guests at short-term rentals contribute \$650 million in annual visitor spending per year.

Unfortunately, our legislators recently passed a 33% increase to the state rooms and meals tax specifically for short-term rentals. This surtax aims to hurt owners of these properties, 50% of which are full-time Vermonters (according to the VSTRA), who rely on them as a source of supplemental income to pay for rising property taxes and maintenance on their own homes.

This policy will not move the needle on housing in Vermont, but instead will increase vacation rental rates and reduce the num-

Legislature instead shrink our economy and stifle investment in new housing?

It seems obvious to me that growing tourism — and not over-taxing tourists and those that support them — is the key to increasing revenue to support state spending.

This can happen if legislators start supporting policies that make Vermont more appealing and accessible to visitors and stop using short-term rentals as a scapegoat for every housing issue under the sun.

Lisa Ford, Guilford

Editor’s note: Ford in addition to operated a vacation rental in Guilford for 11 years, in 2019 Ford organized a statewide Short Term Rental Summit, which led to the creation of the Vermont Short-Term Rental Alliance, a member-based nonprofit association for vacation rental managers and short-term rental hosts operating in the state.

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5th Budget Vote

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ATTEND IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY AT [HTTPS://MEET.GOOGLE.COM/ZPJ-EOMO-SYC](https://meet.google.com/ZPJ-EOMO-SYC)
OR DIAL: (US) +1 857-529-6624 PIN: 851 037 673#



NEXT VOTE June 18, 2024

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.SLATEVALLEYUNIFIED.ORG

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- COMET
- CROSSETTE
- DAHLIA
- FLASH POWDER
- FUSE
- MINE
- PEONY
- PISTIL
- ROMAN CANDLE
- SALUTE
- SETPIECE
- SHELL
- SPARKS
- SPHERE
- SPIDER
- STARS
- STROBE
- WATERFALL

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 19

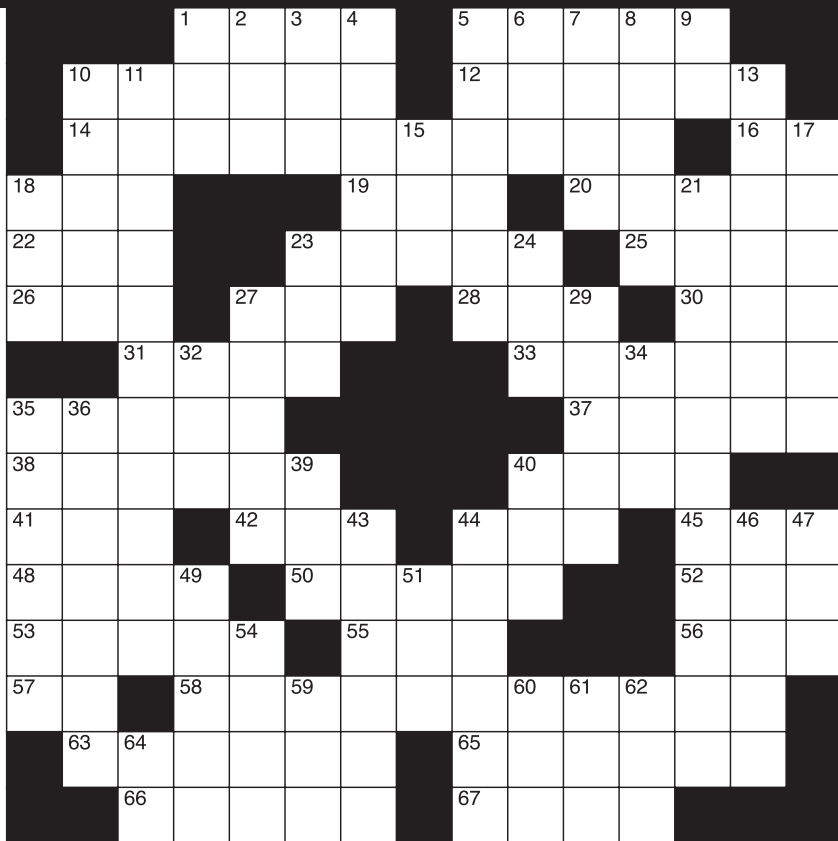
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Native American people
- 5. Very long periods of time (Brit.)
- 10. Schoolboard accessory
- 12. Rods
- 14. One who renews
- 16. Sculpted body part
- 18. Chatter incessantly
- 19. ___ King Cole, musician
- 20. Plates on a turtle's shell
- 22. University of Utah athlete
- 23. The world of the dead
- 25. Singer Redding
- 26. Former Yankee great Mattingly
- 27. Prefix indicating wrongly
- 28. Unhappy
- 30. Anger
- 31. Dark brown or black
- 33. Restaurants have a lot of them
- 35. Made a mistake
- 37. Damp
- 38. Type of gasoline
- 40. Actor LeBlanc
- 41. Perform in a play
- 42. One's mother
- 44. Prohibit

- 45. Swiss river
- 48. Part of a banana
- 50. Indian hand clash cymbals
- 52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 53. Agave
- 55. Noted journalist Tarbell
- 56. Computer firm
- 57. Type of record
- 58. Bacterium that can cause infection
- 63. Sheaths enclosing the spinal cord
- 65. A narrow opening (as in a rock wall)
- 66. Pattern
- 67. Very eager to see something

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Witch
- 2. Utilize
- 3. Writing utensil
- 4. Places to perform
- 5. Subsides
- 6. Consume
- 7. Athleisure clothing brand
- 8. California town
- 9. Atomic #50
- 10. The Muse of lyric and love poetry
- 11. Creates anew
- 13. Humorous commentaries



- 15. Cool!
- 17. Most ignoble
- 18. Soggy dirt
- 21. Designed to be useful
- 23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- 24. High schoolers' test
- 27. One-time internet accessory
- 29. City in India
- 32. Furniture
- 34. You have likely chatted with one
- 35. Pass or go by
- 36. Proof of purchase
- 39. A digital tape recording of sound
- 40. More (Spanish)
- 43. Disfigured
- 44. White (Spanish)
- 46. Building occupied by monks
- 47. Georgia rock band
- 49. Device that generates intense beam of light
- 51. State of agitation
- 54. Make by braiding
- 59. Local area network
- 60. Unit of work or energy
- 61. Indigenous person of Thailand
- 62. Liquefied natural gas
- 64. Distance to top

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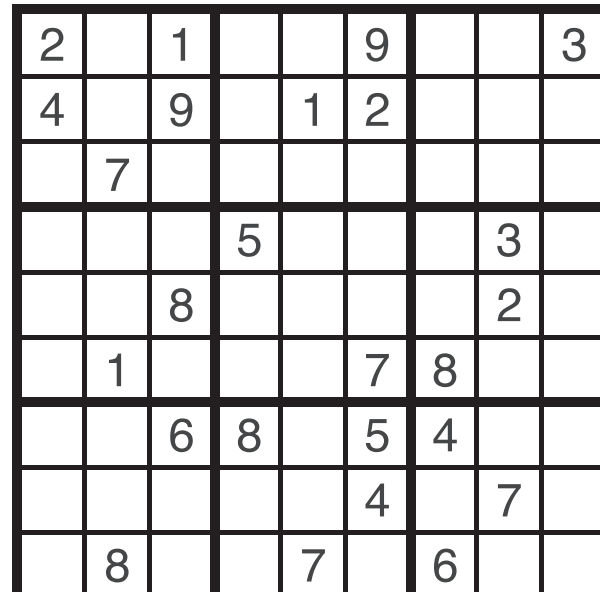
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SUDOKU

Solutions → 19

To solve: make sure each row, column and block, contain one of the numbers from 1-9. No number may appear more than once.



Level: Intermediate

WEDNESDAY

6/12

RSVP Bone Builders

9-10 a.m. Wednesdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Contact Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP) at 802-774-8680 for a callback.

S.E.A.T. Exercises

9-10 a.m. Wednesdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$6 per individual class or \$5 per class when paying for the whole month upfront. A brand-new, chair-based full body workout led by Melissa Cox, ACSM-GEL. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853

Wednesday with Farmer Fred in Plymouth Notch

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Calvin Coolidge Homestead, 56 Messer Hill Road, Plymouth Notch. Free. The Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site's resident farmer will be on hand to demonstrate historic farming tools and techniques. Visitors may witness farmwork at the original Coolidge farmstead, and if lucky, will have an opportunity to meet Fred's special farmyard animals. historicsites.vermont.gov/event/wednesdays-farmer-fred-plymouth-notch-0

Killington Active Seniors Lunch

11:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Lookout Tavern, 2910 Killington Road, Killington. \$5 donation towards the meal, tip is covered by local donors. 908-783-1050.

Rutland Outdoor Farmers Market

1-5 p.m. Wednesdays. Depot Park, downtown Rutland. One of the largest farmers markets in the state and the first to operate year-round. vtfarmersmarket.org

Market on the Green

3-6 p.m. Wednesdays. The Green, Woodstock. Free. Woodstock's weekly market is back! Produce, crafts, live music, and more. A fun, family-friendly event on the Village Green. info@woodstockvt.com or 802-457-3555

Shop with Chef McClure at Market on the Green

3:45-4:45 p.m. The Green, Woodstock. Free. Join Chef McClure and the Vermont Fresh Network for a tour of the Woodstock Market on the Green. Get a first-hand look at Chef Matt's relationships with local vendors and how he's inspired by local, seasonal ingredients. Plus, take home a recipe that incorporates seasonal ingredients available at the market! Sign up: woodstockvt.com/events/shop-with-chef-mcclure-at-market-on-the-green

Cribbage for Adults

3-5 p.m. Wednesdays. Hartland Public Library, 135 Route 5, Hartland. Free. hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar or 802-436-2473

Bone Builders

3:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Improve balance and enhance energy and wellbeing. chaffeeartcenter.org

Make a Father's Day Cricut Hat

4-5:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$15, includes hat and supplies. Students will use Cricut infusible markers to draw on regular copy paper and then will heat press it on the hats. Add a fun title like "Best Dad" or #1 DAD. Instructor will give a demo on how these were made. MUST PRE-REGISTER: chaffeeartcenter.square.site/

Friends of the Library Book Sale

4:30-6:30 p.m. Fair Haven Free Library, 107 N. Main St., Fair Haven. 802-265-8011 or fairhavenfree.org

Youth Intro to Mixed Media (3 week workshop)

5-6:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$65 for all 3 classes, includes all supplies. Ages 8-11. Attendees will get the opportunity to work with multiple mediums to create a mixed media piece. Instructor: Kristen Partesi. Wednesdays: June 5, 12, 19 MUST PRE-REGISTER: chaffeeartcenter.square.site/

Intro to Watercolor, adult (2 week workshop)

7-8:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$70 for 2 classes, includes all supplies. Attendees will leave with a finished watercolor painting. Instructor: Kristen Partesi. Wednesdays: June 5 and 12. MUST PRE-REGISTER: chaffeeartcenter.square.site/

Ballroom Dance with Patti Panebianco

Wednesdays. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. 6-6:50 p.m. Waltz for adults. 7-7:50 p.m. Cha-cha for adults. For details and cost, contact Patti Panebianco at 516-909-1686 or email at pattipdance@gmail.com stonevalleyarts.org

Jersey Boys (Preview Performances)

7:30 p.m. Daily through 7/13. Walker Farm, 705 Main St., Weston. \$1-\$59. Pick your price preview. Weston Theater Company takes audiences for a musical ride chronicling the rise of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons in "Jersey Boys." One of the greatest sensations in the history of popular music, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons will sweep you off your feet with doo-wopping melodies that resonate today. The hits just keep coming, including "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "December 1963 (Oh, What a Night)," and "Can't Take My Eyes Off You." Join us at 7 p.m. for a pre-show talk with the director. For tickets and a full schedule of performances: westontheater.org/jersey-boys

THURSDAY

6/13

Art at the Chaffee: Artery

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Thursdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$10 if you bring your own supplies, up to \$20 if supplies provided. Painting in all mediums welcome. No set topic or instructor. Pre Register at chaffeeartcenter.org

Essentrics Stretch and Strengthen

9-10 a.m. Thursdays. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. \$10. No-weights, low impact workout combines principles from ballet, tai chi, and physiotherapy to restore flexibility and balance. Bring a mat and water. stonevalleyarts.org

Bone Builders

9 a.m. Thursdays. Gilbert Hart Library, 14 So. Main St., Wallingford. 802-446-2685

Advanced Line Dance

9:30-10:30 a.m. Thursdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853

Senior Bone Builders

10 a.m. Thursdays. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-4323

Survivors Support Group

10 a.m.-Noon. Thursdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Fliers available at the Godnick Center or call 802-775-3232. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-775-1853.

Ukulele Group

Noon-1 p.m. Thursdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Ages 12+. Pre-register the Wednesday before. 802-775-0356 or chaffeeartcenter.org

Benefits of Reiki

1 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. The practice of Reiki can bring clarity as well as supporting physical and/or mental healing. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-4323

Play Bridge!

2-4 p.m. Thursdays. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Beginners are welcome to observe. normanwilliams.org or 802-457-2295

Thursday Farmers Market (Fair Haven)

3-6 p.m. Thursdays. Village Green, Fair Haven. Free. vtfarmersmarket.org

S.T.E.A.M. Thursdays

3-4 p.m. Thursdays. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Join us for S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) craft activities. Something different every week! kids@hartlandlibrary.org calendar or 802-436-2473

Yoga with Kelly

3:45-4:45 p.m. Thursdays. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. rutlandfree.org or 802-773-1860

Board Game Night

5 p.m. Thursdays. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. hartlandlibrary.org/calendar or 802-436-2473

Feast and Field Music Series: Le Winston Band

5:30-9 p.m. Thursdays. Fable Farm, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$5-\$25. Le Winston Band is a Montreal based ensemble that blends sassy compositions and well known traditional songs from Quebec and Louisiana. Every Thursday from May 30 – Sept. 26 in Barnard. Join us in the orchards, to enjoy music curated by BarnArts, and freshly prepared food that is grown, raised, and harvested on this same land by the Feast & Field Farmers. feastandfield.com/tickets

**FATHER'S DAY
AT THE FARM**

SUNDAY, 10 AM-5 PM

**Sip N Dip**

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$35, includes all supplies. Perfect for a date night or just out with friends! Attendees follow along with an instructor and leave with a finished acrylic painting. BYO wine. Image: Landscape. Instructor: Kathryn Wieggers. Must Pre-register: chaffeeartcenter.org or 802-775-0356

Red Barn Dinner Series 2024

6-9 p.m. Woodstock Inn (Kelly Way Gardens), 14 The Green, Woodstock. \$160+. Payment required at booking. Wine pairings included, cash bar available. Head to the Woodstock Inn & Resort's Kelly Way Gardens for the specialty Red Barn Dinners featuring Executive Chef Matthew McClure and his seasonal cuisine! The 4-course meals with accompanying wines will utilize fresh, seasonal, and local ingredients anchored by produce from Kelly Way Gardens. Thursday Red Barn Dinners will feature farmers and purveyors from our community as special guests, with the menus based around their products. Reservations required. 802-457-6665 woodstockvt.com/events/red-barn-dinner-series-2024

'Dirty Dancing'

7:30-9:10 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, children & members \$8. Spending the summer at a Catskills resort with her family, Frances "Baby" Houseman (Jennifer Grey) falls in love with the camp's dance instructor, Johnny Castle (Patrick Swayze). Tickets: pentanglearts.org

FRIDAY

6/14

Rutland Free Library Book Sale

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all. Always a broad selection of rare and antique books. All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per monthly sale per family. No book dealers. Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated library projects. rutlandfree.org

Storytime at the Library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. sherburnelibrary.org

Yoga & Meditation

10:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853

Bone Builders

11 a.m.-Noon. Fridays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. chaffeeartcenter.org or 802-775-0356

Art at the National Park

11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mondays and Fridays through 8/9. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Free. Make art while feeling inspired by the park. Meet the 2024 Student Artists-in Residence and take part in a park-inspired art activity. Artists of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Visitors are invited to drop in any time during the program. Pets allowed. nps.gov/thingstodo/art-in-the-park-at-marsh-billings-rockefeller-nhp

Quechee Balloon Festival

3-9 p.m. June 14-16. Quechee Green Park, Quechee. Free. Adult weekend pass \$20+ taxes/fees, children (5-16) \$5+ taxes/fees, children under 4 are free. Tethered balloon ride \$25+ taxes/fees. Grab tickets to enjoy the festival or book a balloon ride to experience the magic from the air. The festival includes live music, crafts, food and fun activities for the whole family to enjoy. Maybe even a balloon ride! For tickets and schedule of events: quecheeballoonfestival.com. See full schedule on pages 14-15.

Hartland Farmers' Market

4-6:30 p.m. Fridays. 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Enjoy food, music, and shopping at the market. The Hartland market is accepting new vendors this season. We are always looking for more produce vendors! If you are interested in being a vendor email us at: hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com

Food Truck Fridays

4-7 p.m. West Rutland Rec. Dept., 59 Fairview Ave., West Rutland. Free. Live music, food trucks, great atmosphere. Bring a chair or blanket to sit and enjoy some great music and dinner. Free food truck entry. recreation@westrutlandvt.org

West Coast Swing Dance Classes "The Modern Swing"

5-6 p.m. Fridays through June 28. The Gymnasium, 11 Cottage St., Rutland. \$60 for 4 classes. No partner required. In this class, students will learn the basic six count patterns to start, sometimes integrating an eight count pattern. West Coast Swing is a fun, social, versatile partner dance form, danced to a wide range of popular music, from blues to pop, slow swing and R&B. A cousin of traditional swing dances like the Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing, West Coast Swing is constantly evolving. Today, it combines swing connection and rhythms with independent movement inspired by influences from nearly every other dance style, as well as contemporary music. It is a smooth, cool, laid-back dance that can be funky, groovy or lyrical, depending on the music and your personal style. Pre-registration required. Email Karen: vtwestiebest@gmail.com

Fridays at The MINT: Mosaic Stenware

5-8 p.m. The MINT Downtown, 72 Merchants Row, Rutland. \$50. In this class we will create a mosaic design on the base of a glass or mug. You will learn how to lay out, adhere and complete a micro mosaic. All materials will be provided. This is a BYOB event. Some light complimentary snacks will be available. Instructor: Jennifer Jenkins. To register: rutlandmint.org

Live Brass Music

5:30-8:30 p.m. The Sable Project, 588 N. Taggart Hill Road, Stockbridge. \$5-\$15 suggested donation. Come dance to VT-based Brass Balagan's lively and spirited tunes. Accompanied by dancing puppets! Opening presentations by Sable's and made-to-order wood-fired pizza are also on the menu for the evening. Follow on Instagram: @thesableproject or visit: thesableproject.org/food-and-art

Double Feature at the Bethel Drive-In

9 p.m. Fridays. Bethel Drive-In, 36 Bethel Drive, off Route 12, Bethel. Adults \$12, children (5-12) \$8. Cash only. "Inside Out 2" (PG) at 9 p.m. "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" (PG-13) at 10:45 p.m. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. betheldrivein.com

SATURDAY

6/15

Book Sale

8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. Middletown Springs Historical Society, 10 Park Ave., Middletown Springs. There will be a wide selection of gently read books, movies, puzzles, and games; fiction, biographies, history, nature, children's books and more. Come Saturday for the very best selection and then again on Sunday for the best bargains when all sales will be by donation. All proceeds benefit the library. Contact the library: 802-235-2435 or middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com.

Roots 2 Resilience Garden Walk

9-11 a.m. Rutland Intermediate School (RIS) athletic field, 65 Library Ave., Rutland. Free. 350 Rutland County is sponsoring a guided garden walk through the northwest neighborhood of Rutland to highlight properties that are devoted to increasing biodiversity, avian, and pollinator habitat. Meet at the RIS athletic field at 9 a.m. Bring water and walking shoes. Rain or shine. Contact Cindy Jones: seajones55@yahoo.com

Vermont Outdoor Farmer's Market

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Depot Park, downtown Rutland. Free. One of the largest farmers markets in the state and the first to operate year-round. vtfarmersmarket.org

Rutland Free Library Book Sale

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Always a broad selection of rare and antique books. All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per monthly sale per family. No book dealers. Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated library projects. rutlandfree.org

Lego Club

10-11 a.m. Saturdays. Gilbert Hart Library, 14 So. Main St., Wallingford. 802-446-2685

Bat Houses with The MINT

10 a.m.-Noon. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Ages 6+. Join Rutland Free Library and The MINT on the library lawn (or in the Fox Room if it's raining) to build and decorate your very own bat house! We'll send you home with information on bats and how to take care of your bat house! Registration required: tinyurl.com/37zfr6fv

Forest Fairy Hunts

10 a.m.-2 p.m. VINS, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. Adults \$19.50, children (4-17) \$16.50. Included with general admission. Where do milkweed pods become bathtubs and beds, and acorn caps become dinnerware? In Fairy Town at VINS, of course! Join the Fairy Court to help search the forest for our hidden fairy friends in a scavenger hunt adventure! Forest Fairy hunts offer children and their families a unique opportunity to learn about and connect with the natural world and to nurture respect for the environment. After the hunt get hands on in nature by using natural materials to build your very own fairy house at VINS Fairy Town. Wearing wings is encouraged! Recommended for ages 4 and up. For more information: info@vinsweb.org or 802.359.5000.

Guided Auto Tour of the 1759 Military Road

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Historical Society, 96 Center St., Rutland. Free. Crown Point Road Association historians will lead one of the group's many interesting tours that trace the military road that moved troops and supplies across the state 265 years ago and helped to settle Vermont. The organization is very active with outings, talks, a newsletter and a treasure trove of historical lore for history buffs and newcomers alike. This year's segment will end in the Center Rutland area. Bring a bag lunch and plan to carpool. For more info, call Jim Rowe at 802-434-7415. crownpointroad.org

Kids Acrylic Painting

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25, includes all supplies. Ages 6-11. Attendees follow along with instructor and leave with a finished acrylic painting. Instructor: Kristen Partesi. MUST PRE-REGISTER. This class will be offered monthly on the 3rd Saturday. chaffeeartcenter.org or 802-775-0356

Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays. 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. Free. Maintained by the Rutland Railway Assoc. Inc., the historic depot is now a museum that houses an operating HO scale model railroad set up and displays hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs, and memorabilia saved from an earlier time, including the former Rutland Railroad Caboose #45. rutlandrailway.org

Art at the Chaffee: Drop N Paint

Noon-2 p.m. Saturdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25 per person, instructor help optional with a fee. All ages. Supplies and images to paint are provided. Must pre register by Friday noon at: chaffeeartcenter.org or 802-775-0356.

Teen Acrylic Painting

12:30-2 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland \$25, includes all supplies. Ages 12-18. Attendees follow along with instructor and leave with a finished acrylic painting. Instructor: Kristen Partesi. MUST PRE-REGISTER. This class will be offered monthly on the 3rd Saturday. chaffeeartcenter.org or 802-775-0356

German Soldiers in the American Revolution**Lecture**

1 p.m. Mt. Independence State Historic Site, 472 Mt. Independence Road, Orwell. Free. Dr. Friederike Baer, author of "Hessians: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War," will give a talk about the subject of her book at the Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell, VT. The Mount Independence Coalition, a group of local citizen-historians, is sponsoring this lecture in honor of J. Robert Maguire, a long-time site supporter. historicssites.vermont.gov.

Woodstock Alumni Day Parade

2-3 p.m. The Green, Woodstock. The Alumni Parade always falls the Saturday after graduation. It is a celebration of both the newest Woodstock Union High School graduates as well as all the classes prior. Alumni join forces to create themed floats and show their Woodstock pride. This year's theme is "TV Ads." Contact: Betty Gilbert Powell: vtbettypg@gmail.com

Quechee Balloon Festival

3-9 p.m. June 14-16. Quechee Green Park, Quechee. Free. Adult weekend pass \$20+ taxes/fees, children (5-16) \$5+ taxes/fees, children under 4 are free. Tethered balloon ride \$25+ taxes/fees. Grab tickets to enjoy the festival or book a balloon ride to experience the magic from the air. The festival includes live music, crafts, food and fun activities for the whole family to enjoy. Maybe even a balloon ride! For tickets and schedule of events: quecheeballoonfestival.com. See full schedule on pages 14-15.

Ludlow Trails Grand Opening Party

4-6 p.m. Ludlow Community Center, 37 Main St., Ludlow. Free. According to Charles Rimer, Ludlow Area Trails Association (LAST) president, the club has made a lot of progress lately building and improving their mountain bike trails. The club hopes to have additional trails open by late August. Members will describe the current trail system and talk about plans for new trails in the future. According to the Trailforks directory, Back Forty will be open, without charge, to e-Bikes, hikers, trail runners and snowshoers.

Roast Beef Supper

5-6:30 p.m. Odd Fellows Hall, 37 Lake St., Belmont. Adults \$15, children 12 and under \$8. To benefit Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Dept. Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, rolls, and deserts. Family style. Take-out available. tiffanynorton72@yahoo.com or 802-259-2460.

Capturing Time: 'A Neil Rappaport Retrospective - Opening Reception'

5-7 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Stone Valley Arts is excited to announce "Capturing Time: A Neil Rappaport Retrospective," a major exhibition of the late Pawlet, Vermont based photographer. The show will cover Rappaport's life's work including portraits from the Pawlet Community Study, slate industry, farms, Vermont landscapes and rare photos from Comstock Prison where Rappaport taught photography. Additionally, hand-colored photos produced by Neil and his wife Susanne will be on display. The show will be open until Sunday, August 11. Curated by Chuck Helfer and Krista Rupe. stonevalleyarts.org

Open Mic Night

6:30-8:30 p.m. Ramunto's Brick & Brew Pizza, 101 Mill Road, Bridgewater. Free. First open mic of the year. Every other Thursday. ramuntosvt.com

Artistree: Juan Nieves & Legado Orquestra

7-8:30 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$25. Children 12 and under are free. With themes written by the great classics of the salsa like Rubén Blades, José Noguera, and Tite Curet Alonso, and also featuring new songs arranged by their leader and Puerto Rican cuatro player Juan Nieves and its charismatic composer, arranger, singer & storyteller Rafa Moreno. In the event that there is rain, the concert will happen under a tent. Tickets are NON-refundable. For tickets and info: woodstockvt.com/events/artistree-juan-nieves-legado-orquestra

'Emma'

7:30-9:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, children & members \$8. In Regency-Era England, a well meaning but selfish young woman meddles in the love lives of her friends in this 2020 adaptation of Jane Austen's classic novel. Tickets: pentaglearts.org

Double Feature at the Bethel Drive-In

9 p.m. Saturdays. Bethel Drive-In, 36 Bethel Drive, (off Route 12) Bethel. Adults \$12, children (5-12) \$8. Cash only. "Inside Out 2" (PG) at 9 p.m. "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" (PG-13) at 10:45 p.m. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. betheldrivein.com

SUNDAY

6/16

Quechee Balloon Festival

6 a.m. Quechee Green Park, Quechee. Free. Adult weekend pass \$20+ taxes/fees, children (5-16) \$5+ taxes/fees, children under 4 are free. Tethered balloon ride \$25+ taxes/fees. Grab tickets to enjoy the festival or book a balloon ride to experience the magic from the air. The festival includes live music, crafts, food and fun activities for the whole family to enjoy. Maybe even a balloon ride! For tickets and schedule of events: quecheeballoonfestival.com. See full schedule on pages 14-15.

Book Sale

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Middletown Springs Historical Society, 10 Park Ave., Middletown Springs. There will be a wide selection of gently read books, movies, puzzles, and games; fiction, biographies, history, nature, children's books and more. All sales will be by donation. Customers will be encouraged to fill a bag or a box and make a donation of any amount. All proceeds benefit the library. Contact the library: 802-235-2435 or middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com.

Father's Day at the Farm

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Adults (16+) \$19, seniors (62+) \$16, children (3-15) \$12. There will be a friendly, action-packed game of vintage baseball at 2 p.m. Following rules from 1860, the game will be played on a field beyond the pastures with wood shavings for baselines, canvas bases filled with straw, along with a metal pitcher's plate and home plate. Players will use reproduction bats of ash wood and follow the tradition of playing barehanded. Visitors of all ages can join the team or grab some ice cream from the Farmhouse Scoop Shop and cheer from the bleachers for one of the original American pastimes. As a special Father's Day treat dads can enjoy a free scoop of ice cream, included with admission. billingsfarm.org/events/fathers-day-at-the-farm-2024

← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes info.....
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'Emma'
3-5 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, children & members \$8. In Regency-Era England, a well meaning but selfish young woman meddles in the love lives of her friends in this 2020 adaptation of Jane Austen's classic novel. Tickets: pentaglearts.org

Crafts with Critters
5-6 p.m. VINS, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$15. 15 person limit. Have you ever wanted to make art alongside a bird of prey? Artists of all ages are invited to meet an ambassador bird and learn all about raptors while exploring your artistic side. New and younger artists can enjoy crafting along a live step by step demo, while more experienced artists can draw inspiration from our live avian model and create a work of art from life; all this, while learning about the fascinating natural history of North America's birds of prey! Participants can craft from provided materials or bring their own supplies for some feather-tastic fun, then take home a special souvenir of the experience! For more information: 802-359-5000 or info@vinsweb.org. To register: vinsweb.org/event/crafts-with-critters/

The Wandering Paintbrush
5-7 p.m. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. \$30, includes materials. Father's Day edition! Christine teaches you how to paint! Sign up early: mainstreetmuseum.org

Sunday Supper in the Red Barns
6-9 p.m. Woodstock Inn & Resort (Kelly Way Gardens), 14 The Green, Woodstock. \$140. Payment required at booking. Wine pairings included. Cash bar available. Head to the Woodstock Inn & Resort's

Kelly Way Gardens for Sunday Suppers in the Red Barns
These 3-course family-style dinners offer the finest cuisine of the region in a community-focused environment. Break bread alongside neighbors, spark a friendly conversation with new friends, and find a depth of intricate flavors in the local ingredients we prepare for you. 6 p.m. cocktail hour; 7 p.m. seating. Reservations required. Questions: 802-457-6665. Reservations: woodstockvt.com/events/sunday-supper-in-the-red-barns

Double Feature at the Bethel Drive-In
9 p.m. Saturdays. Bethel Drive-In, 36 Bethel Drive, (off Route 12) Bethel. Adults \$12, children (5-12) \$8. Cash only. "Inside Out 2" (PG) at 9 p.m. "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" (PG-13) at 10:45 p.m. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. betheldrivein.com

MONDAY
6/17

Senior Bone Builders
10 a.m. Mondays. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-9765

Art in the National Park
11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mondays and Fridays through 8/9. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Free. Make art while feeling inspired by the park's surroundings. Meet the 2024 Student Artists-in Residence and take part in a park-inspired art activity. Artists of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Visitors are invited to drop in any time during the program. Pets allowed. nps.gov/thingstodo/art-in-the-park-at-marsh-billings-rockefeller-nhp

Community Lunch
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mondays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Over 60, \$3.50. Under 60, \$6. Donations welcome. In partnership with the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, the Godnick Center hosts congregating meals. Make new friends, connect with pals. Call 802-773-1853 and leave a message with your name and phone number the Thursday before. See rutlandrec.com/godnick for the menu.

Monday Movie
1 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Contact the library for the title. sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday or 802-422-9765

Alfred Hitchcock and the Art of Suspense
2 p.m. Mount Holly Town Library, 26 Maple Hill Road, Belmont. Free. mounthollylibrary@gmail.com

Free Yoga at Billings Farm
5:15-6:30 p.m. Mondays. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Free. Stretch in the scenic pastures of Billings Farm. Arrive at the farm early to get settled in and participate in a tea service featuring herbs fresh from the Billings Farm garden at 5:15 p.m. National Park Ranger Jen Jackson will lead the weekly Farm & Forest Yoga Flow. Bring a mat and check in at the Billings Farm Visitor Center. nps.gov/mabi

JAM Script Writers' Group
5:30-7 p.m. Every other Monday. JAM, 5 So. Main St., White River Junction. Free. Ages 17+. Gather bi-weekly with a dedicated group to meet talented local writers, learn new script writing techniques, and receive peer feedback on your work. Meetings are free of charge and not mandatory, but we encourage consistent participation to get the most out of this group! For more information and to register: uvjam.org/scriptwritersgroup/

Group Run/Walk
5:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays. Location changes weekly-check Facebook event for details. Join Slate Valley Trails for a group trail run or walk now through September. Expect at least a 5 mile run at a social pace. With two groups we will have options for up to 12 miles for one of the routes. Bring plenty of water, snacks, bug spray, and an after run beverage of choice. Youth 14 -18 must have a parent/guardian present, or have submitted our Youth Participation Waiver in advance of outing. slatevalleytrails.org

'Emma'
7:30-9:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Adults \$10, seniors \$9, children & members \$8. In Regency-Era England, a well meaning but selfish young woman meddles in the love lives of her friends in this 2020 adaptation of Jane Austen's classic novel. Tickets: pentaglearts.org

TUESDAY
6/18

Bone Builders
9 a.m. Tuesdays. Gilbert Hart Library, 14 So. Main St., Wallingford. 802-446-2685

Line Dance for Beginners
9:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Line dance basics taught by Sharon McKee. No partner or experience needed. Call 802-773-1853 for cost and to sign up. rutlandrec.com/godnick

Bridge Club
Noon-4:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. rutlandrec.com/godnick

Senior Volunteers
1-3 p.m. Tuesdays. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-4323

Yoga at Mission Farm
2-3 p.m. Tuesdays through 7/23. Mission Farm, 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington. Pay what you can; suggested donation \$10. No registration required, just show up and join. Dress comfortably. Bring your own mat; blankets available. Classes are held outside at the Odeon; in case of rain, we will move to the church lobby. missionfarmvt.org

Bridge Club
2-4 p.m. Tuesdays. Hartland Public Library, 150 US-5, Hartland. Free. All levels welcome. Want to learn? Contact Toni at 802-436-2943 or email tonidave@vermontel.net

Chess Club
4-6 p.m. Tuesdays. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Whether you have been playing for years or are new. If possible, bring your own chess set; some sets will be available. Contact club organizer Gregory Weller at gawchess802@gmail.com

Play Chess, Backgammon!
5-7 p.m. Tuesdays. Norman Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. All skill levels are welcome and coaching is available. Bring your own set or use one of ours. normanwilliams.org or 802-457-2295

Tuesday Night Twilight League
5 p.m. Tuesdays through 9/24. Green Mountain National Golf Course, 476 Barrows Towne Road, Killington. Non-pass holders \$40, pass holders \$22; includes 9 holes with cart. Shotgun start at 5 p.m. 4 person scramble. Teams welcome or individuals/pairs will be linked into groups of 4 and play the front 9. Results in Gracie's Clubhouse Grill after play. Must sign-up before Tuesday at noon. gmngc.com or 802-422-4653

Jazz Dance for Adults
6-7:15 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. \$15 drop in; \$68 for 6 week session. This class offers classic American jazz dance technique and choreography. Each class begins with a warm up of moderate aerobic conditioning, followed by progressive steps across the floor, culminating in short dance phrases that can be combined into jazz dance choreography. A variety of music styles are used to make this class a fun workout! June 4, 11, 18 and 25. Instructor: Erika Schmidt. stonevalleyarts.org

Village Farm Concert Series: Hermit Hollow String Band
6-8 p.m. Tuesdays through 8/13. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St., Pittsford. Free. Hailing from various corners of Vermont's Slate Valley, the Hermit Hollow String Band plays bluegrass and bluegrass-adjacent music with tight vocal harmonies and driving rhythms. HHSB is a two-time finalist for NYVT Media's Best of the Lakes Region. pittsfordvillagefarm.org

Revenge of the Movie Night
7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. Free. We never know ahead of time what the movie will be. Think of it as a grab bag. mainstreetmuseum.org

TUESDAY NIGHT TWILIGHT LEAGUE

TUESDAY, 5 PM



[MUSIC Scene]

By DJ Dave Hoffenberg
Have a music scene coming up? Email djdavehoff@gmail.com

WED
6/12

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Off the Rails – Learn to Line Dance

POULTNEY

7 p.m. Poultney Pub - Open Mic with Danny Lang

QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Chris Pallutto

8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Full PA/Backline Open Mic hosted by Josh LaFave

THURS
6/13

BARNARD

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm – Feast & Field with Le Winston Band

BRANDON

5:30 p.m. Red Clover Ale Company – Open Mic hosted by Emily Neilson

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – James Joel

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS
5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic hosted by Grateful Gary

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

LONDONDERRY

7 p.m. New American Grill – Open Mic Night hosted by DJ Jazzy Joel & Catnip John

LUDLOW

6:30 p.m. The Killarney – Irish Sessions with Gypsy Reel

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Vinyl Night with Ken

QUECHEE

6:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Trivia with Questionable Company

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Angler Pub – A Sound Space Open Mic with Host Krishna Guthrie

8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Karaoke 101 hosted by Tenacious T

FRI
6/14

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Bomoseen Dog – Music by Cooper

6 p.m. Lake House Pub & Grille – Ryan Fuller

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Mitch Terricciano

CHESTER

7 p.m. Pizza Stone VT – The Weisstronauts

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed – Jeremiah Strauss

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7 p.m. Killington Mountain Lodge – Psylas

7:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Sammy B

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Curragh's Fancy

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Carl Anton

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Jacob Green

RANDOLPH

6 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Songwriter Showcase

WEST RUTLAND

4 p.m. Rec Center – Food Truck Friday with music by Chris Pallutto

SAT
6/15

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – James Joel

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with headliner Rob Christensen

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – Carl Anton

CHESTER

6 p.m. Country Girl Diner – Rustie Bus

HARTFORD

6 p.m. Quechee Green Park – Quechee Balloon Fest with music by Bow Thayer

KILLINGTON

2:30 p.m. The Umbrella Bar at Snowshed – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Rivershed – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Marc Edwards

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7:30 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Live Music

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Curragh's Fancy

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Mowgli Giannitti

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Kind Bud

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Karaoke 101 hosted by Tenacious T

SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Artistree (Outside) – Juan Nieves & Legado Orquestra

STOCKBRIDGE

7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington & Tuff Luv

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Ali T

SUN
6/16

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS
3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – North Country Trio

KILLINGTON

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Liz Reedy

2 p.m. Umbrella Bar at Snowshed – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia Night

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jazz Night with the Summit Pond Quartet

7:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Nick Bredice

STOCKBRIDGE

7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington's Looping Mayhem

MON
6/17

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Ryan Fuller

LUDLOW

5 p.m. Little Mexico – Sammy B

8:30 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic Night with Indigenous Entertainment

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Jam Session with Ben Kogan

TUES
6/18

KILLINGTON

7:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Taco Tuesday with Rick Webb

LONDONDERRY

6:30 p.m. New American Grill – Trivia hosted by Zach Yakaitis

LUDLOW

6 p.m. The Killarney – Trivia with Rick Davis

PITTSFIELD

7 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic Jam

POULTNEY

7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

RUTLAND


6:30 p.m. Vermont Tap House – Trivia Night

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Courtesy Woodstock Vermont

Quechee Hot Air Balloon Festival, New England's longest-running event, celebrates 44th anniversary in 2024, featuring 16 balloonists, craft vendors, specialty food, and entertainers.

Quechee hot air balloon festival lifts off

Hartford Area Chamber Prepares for Balloon Festival

Friday, June 14 at 3 p.m. to Sunday, June 16 at 6 a.m. —QUECHEE —The Quechee Hot Air Balloon Craft and Music Festival, Village Green, Quechee, the longest running hot air balloon festival in New England, will celebrate its 44th anniversary in 2024 when thousands are expected to flock to central Vermont, June 14 - 16 (Father's Day weekend).

Sixteen balloonists headline the event with five flights slated throughout the weekend and additional tethered rides during the day. Attendees can visit 70 craft vendors, indulge in a variety of fares from specialty food vendors, then sit back and enjoy dozens of entertainers for all ages, during the three-day extravaganza. A variety of festival favorites and new food offerings with local healthy options and a beer and wine garden are planned.



Courtesy Quechee Balloon Festival
Skyhigh Skydivers

"We are proud to celebrate the 44rd anniversary of Quechee Hot Air Balloon Festival which truly epitomizes what a community event stands for," said Havah Armstrong Walther, executive director of the Hartford Area Chamber, who will be hosting her first hot air balloon festival event. "Our sponsors, volunteers, and the town come together and rally each year to make this a benchmark event. It is a great example of what we can achieve

when our community comes together."

Festival goers have much to choose from during the three-day event. They can start their day at sunrise and watch morning balloon lift-offs while indulging in breakfast and coffee. The afternoon can be spent enjoying stellar entertainment or visiting the various artisans and food vendors. During evening liftoff, you can grab dinner and sit hillside on the Quechee Green or consider waiting until dusk for the illuminated balloon-glow show.

Friday night will feature a DJ dance party with fire breathing, while Saturday morning launches with Pups in the Air and the jazzy beats of the Fred Haas Trio. The Sunday morn-

ing 6:00 a.m. balloon launch still has a handful of tickets available. Entertainers for this year's three-day extravaganza of entertainers include Bow Thayer, DJ Sean Livemixings, Pups in the Air, John Lackard Blues Band, VINS, The Tricksters, Skyhigh Skydivers, and more.

"The Quechee Balloon Festival is a great boost to our businesses and local economy," added Armstrong Walther. "We draw people from all over New England and the Eastern Seaboard, bringing our local vendors and musicians thousands of locals and out of town visitors who support the event year after year. For me, the best part of the festival this year is going to be working with the dozens of volunteers from businesses and the community at large, who return like clockwork, some for over a decade now."

Dates for the Quechee Balloon Festival are June 14, 15, 16, 2024 (Father's Day Weekend). Hours are as follows: Friday from 3-10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 6 a.m.- to 10 p.m. Tix \$0-\$350.

Friday, June 14

3 p.m.

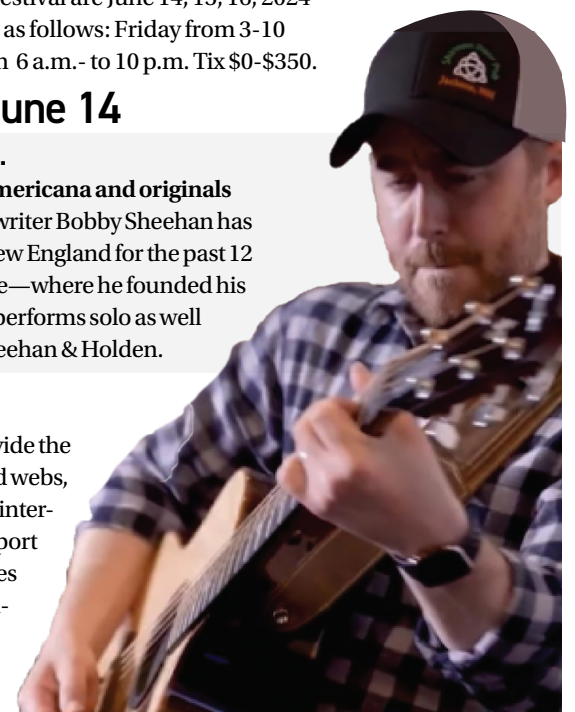
Bobby Sheehan, Classic rock, Americana and originals

Upper Valley-based singer/songwriter Bobby Sheehan has been performing across northern New England for the past 12 years. Originally from western Maine—where he founded his first band, Junco—Bobby currently performs solo as well as with the Lazy River Riders and Sheehan & Holden.

5 p.m.

VINS —Raptors Up Close

Live falcons, hawks and owls provide the lens through which we examine food webs, predator-prey relationships and the interdependence of the systems that support life. This first-hand encounter enables participants to understand the defining characteristics that make a bird a raptor and their adaptations for life as a predator on the wing.



6 p.m.

Dj Sean Livemixkings, DJ and MC

Sean Hay has been a DJ, MC and event promoter for 15 years. Sean will be spinning his signature mixes of the hottest songs to kick off the festival.

Balloon Launch

More than 20 hot air balloons ascend. Wind and weather dependent.

7:30 p.m.

LaLoopna Hoops, Hoop Dance and Fire Performer

Lee Nangeroni, also known as LaLoopna Hoops, is a hoop dancer, stilt walker and fire performer from New Hampshire.

Dusk

Balloon Glow

Watch the festival light up at dusk. Wind and weather dependent.

Saturday, June 15

6 a.m. (gates open at 5:30 a.m.)

Balloon Launch

More than 20 hot air balloons ascend. Wind and weather dependent.

10 a.m.

Pups in the Air, New England Disc Doggers

A creative, enthusiastic group of Disc Doggers and their performing canines.

Skyhigh Skydivers

Watch experienced jumpers performing acrobatic maneuvers in the air during free fall before landing by parachute.

10:30 a.m.

Fred Haas Trio, Jazz, swing and blues music

Inspired, joyful and swingin'! A performance that will have you tapping your toes or dancing in the aisle as these artists perform, and share their love of jazz, swing and blues music.

12 p.m.

Robert Clarke, Magician and Juggler

Sit back in awe as Robert Clarke amazes with mind blowing magic and miracles.

Skyhigh Skydivers

Watch experienced jumpers performing acrobatic maneuvers in the air during free fall before landing by parachute.

1 p.m.

Lisa Piccirillo, Folk and pop musical blend

Lisa Piccirillo is a Vermont-based singer/songwriter whose compositions chronicle poignant observations with honesty and grace.

Kids Zone with the Fair Explorer

The Fair Explorer is a high-energy character that is mixed between Around the World in 80 Days and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Open until 5 p.m.

2 p.m.

Pups in the Air, New England Disc Doggers

A creative, enthusiastic group of Disc Doggers and their performing canines.

Skyhigh Skydivers

Watch experienced jumpers performing acrobatic maneuvers in the air during free fall before landing by parachute.

2:30 p.m.

Robert Clarke, Magician and Juggler

Sit back in awe as Robert Clarke amazes with mind blowing magic and miracles.

3:30 p.m.

The Funky Flats, High energy funk band

The band was formed in 2023 when working musician friends came together to express their love for super funky music. The Funky Flats' style is original funky music inspired by the scratchy guitars, bright brassy horns and tight rhythm sections of the funk masters of the 1970s.

5 p.m.

The Raq-ettes, Performance Troupe

Professional and student dancers from Raq-On Dance Studio. An inclusive dance community that promotes body positivity and has been fostering fearless curves in Upper Valley for over a decade.

6 p.m.

Bow Thayer, Musician

An American songwriter, guitarist, and banjoist and the founder of the Tweed River Music Festival. Bow's career spans over two decades with bands including the 7 League Boots, Elbow, Jethro and The Benders as well as solo work.

Balloon Launch

More than 20 hot air balloons ascend. Wind and weather dependent.

Dusk

Balloon Glow

Watch the festival light up at dusk. Wind and weather dependent.



Sunday, June 16

6 a.m. (gates open at 5:30 a.m.)



Balloon Launch

More than 20 hot air balloons ascend. Wind and weather dependent.

10 a.m.

Pups in the Air, New England Disc Doggers

A creative, enthusiastic group of Disc Doggers and their performing canines.

Skyhigh Skydivers

Watch experienced jumpers performing acrobatic maneuvers in the air during free fall before landing by parachute.

11 a.m.

John Lackard Blues Band, Danceable, Rockin' Blues

A sound and style that could easily have come from Memphis or Chicago is perhaps what makes John Lackard and his Green Mountain origin so unique.

Noon

Skyhigh Skydivers

Watch experienced jumpers performing acrobatic maneuvers in the air during free fall before landing by parachute.

12:30 p.m.

Robert Clarke, Magician and Juggler

Sit back in awe as Robert Clarke amazes with mind blowing magic and miracles.

1 p.m.

Kids Zone with the Fair Explorer

The Fair Explorer is a high-energy character that is mixed between Around the World in 80 Days and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Open until 5 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

Brooks Hubbard and Dad Gary, Musician

Brooks Hubbard is a national touring independent artist from the mountains of rural New England.

2 p.m.

Pups in the Air, New England Disc Doggers

A creative, enthusiastic group of Disc Doggers and their performing canines.

Skyhigh Skydivers

Watch experienced jumpers performing acrobatic maneuvers in the air during free fall before landing by parachute.

3 p.m.

Robert Clarke, Magician and Juggler

Sit back in awe as Robert Clarke amazes with mind blowing magic and miracles.

4 p.m.

The Tricksters, Pop-rock Band

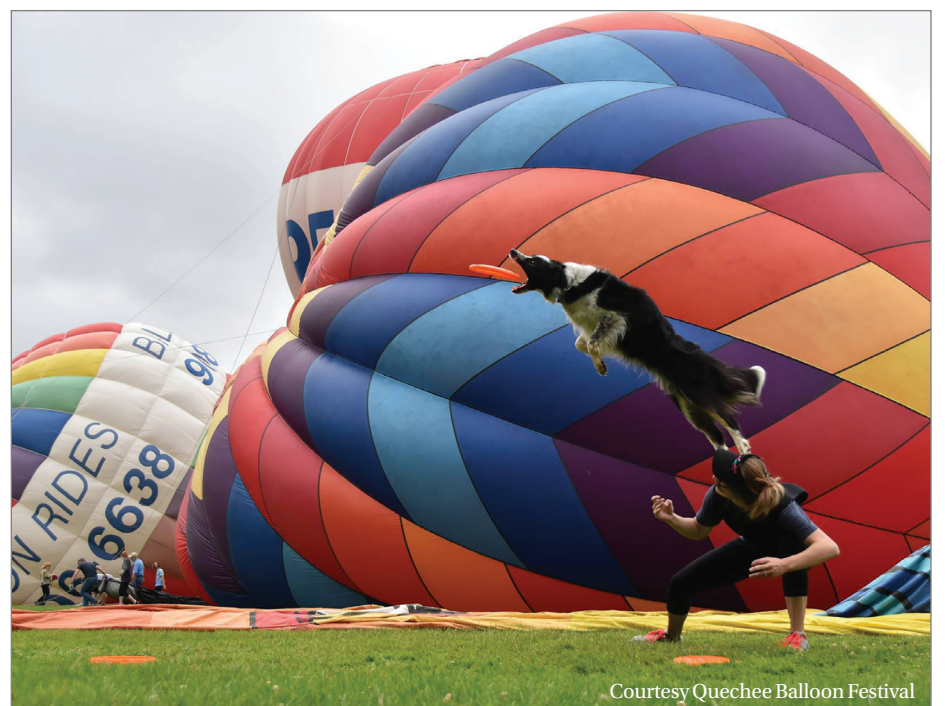
Some of Vermont's most talented musicians joined forces to form this Vermont-based band. They will keep you dancing all night with their repertoire which spans Top 40 radio hits from the late '80s, '90s, and current pop songs from today. Fun and original—filled with love, tight vocal harmonies, and contagious energy.

6 p.m.

Balloon Launch

More than 20 hot air balloons ascend. Wind and weather dependent.

For more information visit: quecheeballoonfestival.com



Courtesy Quechee Balloon Festival



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Capturing Time: A Neil Rappaport Retrospective

Saturday, June 15, 5-7p.m. —POULTNEY— Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultnery announces “Capturing Time: A Neil Rappaport Retrospective,” a major exhibition of the late Pawlet, Vermont based photographer. The show will cover Rappaport’s life’s work including portraits from the Pawlet Community Study, slate industry, farms, Vermont landscapes and rare photos from Comstock Prison where Rappaport taught photography. Additionally, hand-colored photos produced by Neil and his wife Suzanne will be on display. The show

will be open until Sunday, Aug. 18. Curated by Chuck Helfer and Krista Rupe. Rappaport was born in New York City in 1942. He graduated from Williams College with an English degree, but his life changed when he picked up a camera. Rappaport was a documentary photographer and he taught at Bennington College for 27 years from 1970-1997. He became obsessed with recording how life in the small rural town of Pawlet, where he was a long time resident, was changing. When he died suddenly in 1998, he left behind a treasure trove of images.

He referred to his works as “biographies rather than essays.” “Through Neil’s lens he tells the history of a community letting the photos paint personal stories,” said SVA Curator Krista Rupe. “Neil’s rare ability to connect with people gives us a photographic time capsule into a Vermont community and way of life no longer present,” said Chuck Helfer, SVA curator. SVA summer gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. For more information, contact: 646-526-6536 or krista.rupe@gmail.com.



Courtesy of Stone Valley Arts
The work of Vermont photographer Neil Rappaport showcases daily life in the Pawlet area.

Vermont Bikepackers hosts Beginners' Community Campout

Friday, June 14 at 8 a.m. to Sunday, June 16 at 8 a.m.—GOSHEN—A free, fun, off-road ride and campout in the Green Mountain National Forest in Goshen. The event will be based at the Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, 1288 Goshen-Ripton Rd, Goshen, which has been reserved for the weekend to offer this event free of charge for participants. The Outdoor Center provides access to the Blueberry Hill network of trails, the Vermont Long Trail, The Catamount Trail, and the Moosalamoo National Forest Trails. There is ample camping space and the convenience of campground amenities.

The goal of this event is to combine off-road biking and camping to serve as a comfortable introduction to bikepacking. Blueberry Hill will serve as a basecamp where day rides will leave from, and camping will be available on both Friday and Saturday night.

Saturday morning will start at 8 a.m. with an introductory workshop to answer questions about bike setup, how to pack bags, etc. Participants will be encouraged to load up their bikes to try out different setups – and volunteers will be on hand to help with DIY set-ups.

Then riders will set off mid-morning. The route will be a loop that consists of gravel roads, forest roads, and some double/single track. There may be sections on pavement that connect to other trails, and other sections may require hike-a-bike. There are several options for resting mid ride. The main ride is 30 miles with ~3,200 ft of elevation gain, and an option to cut it short about halfway through. There will also be an option to extend for those looking for more miles.

Riders will return to Blueberry Hill to reconvene and share stories over dinner and campfires. Another optional ride is planned for Sunday morning.

This event is for those new to bikepacking and/or looking to expand their skills and competencies in this activity. The atmosphere will be supportive and non-competitive, with the goal of sharing bikepacking and creating a safe and inclusive opportunity to engage in off-road riding on a loaded bike. You bring your bike, gear, food and self-supported riding skills and we'll bring the community and camaraderie.

Q&A:

Should we plan to be fully self-supported?

Yes, we might have some snacks on hand but plan to be fully self-supported. Blueberry Hill Inn across the road will be serving pizza for a fee the night of 6/14. Nearby towns such as Brandon, Ripton, and Forestdale have stores if back-up supplies are needed (though the hours may be restricted for stores in Ripton and Forestdale).

Are we biking with our sleeping gear or leaving it at Blueberry Hill?

No, feel free to leave supplies and food at the BHOC. There is space inside the outdoor center for gear to stay dry. Additionally there is a drinking water tap available.

What's the parking situation?

Parking is available on site, but we encourage folks to carpool, or even bike to the event!

What level of amenities should we expect?

There are bathrooms and water on site, parking is on site at the Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, there is a drinking water tap available and there is space inside the outdoor center for storage.

What should I bring? How should I pack?

If you don't have items in this list that is OK! The goal of

this campout is to learn about bikepacking. Bring what you have and learn from your peers on what setup works for them.

- A bike suitable for the route. The routes use significant sections of forest trail, and gravel bikes may face intermittent sections of hike-a-bike. This route is best for larger gravel or mountain bikes with tires at least 1.75"/45mm wide. We don't recommend road bikes with slick tires. If you're deciding between tires that might be too small vs. too big, we'd encourage you to err on the side of too big. You'll be more comfortable, and this is definitely not a race!
- A helmet. All riders are required to wear a helmet at all times when riding their bikes during this event.
- Clothing, repair tools, equipment, food and water to ride self-sufficiently along the route.
- Overnight gear and food for up to 2 nights of camping. This can be packed on your bike or stored at the Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center.

What if there is inclement weather?

Be prepared for all kinds of weather, including temperatures ranging from 40 to 80 degrees fahrenheit, potential precipitation, and possibly some wind.

Insect repellent is encouraged.

Are there re-supply locations? How much water should I bring?

Please arrive prepared with the food you need for the event, including meals to prepare at camp. You're welcome to team up with others to cook in small groups.

You'll need 2 days worth of ride food, 2 lunch(es), 1 dinner (2 if camping on 6/14), and 2 breakfasts.

We recommend you carry 1-2 liters of water capacity during the ride.

Blueberry Hill has a tap available for riders to use to top off their bottles. There will be water sources such as streams and lakes throughout the ride if you have means of purifying your water!

Resupply: The outdoor center will have water available to top off. There are some stores in bordering towns but would be a little bit of a trek to get to. The Blueberry Hill inn is across the road and does offer meals.

What is the service like in that area?

Cell phone service can be spotty and is not guaranteed. A satellite tracker (such as a SPOT or InReach) is not mandatory but is nice to have if available to you.

Download the ride files ahead of time and ensure you can use them without cell phone service, or on your GPS device (Garmin, Wahoo, etc.).



Submitted

Donations and parade participants sought for Killington's Fourth of July Celebration

Killington Parks and Recreation has announced the schedule for this year's July 4th Celebration and seeks participants and volunteers to help make the events successful.

Participants can get involved in multiple ways. Children 12 years or younger can bring their patriotically decorated bike and ride in the parade. Parents of younger children can walk with their child.

Alternatively, friends, businesses or organizations can register a float for the parade, or simply walk together in the parade.

Advanced registration is required to plan the parade line-up order. Register at KillingtonRec.com by July 2.

Volunteers are needed for parade support, food service, set up and break down. Please sign up to volunteer at KillingtonRec.com under the Fourth of July program.

Schedule

Festivities will be beginning at 9 a.m. Thursday, July 4, with the Friends of the Library book sale. The parade begins at 10 a.m. followed by a community barbecue and pool party with DJ Evan Foley providing the music for the afternoon. Killington Fire and Rescue will offer a traditional picnic meal including burgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers a side dishes to be donated for the lunch. Donations of side dishes can be dropped off the morning of the event at the Recreation Pavilion. Kids Field Games at Soccer Field will begin at 1:30 p.m. (no registration required) followed by a belly flop contest at 3:30 p.m. At 7 p.m. enjoy live music by Summit Pond Quartet. Festivities end with the fireworks show at 9 p.m.

Parking: Due to potential traffic flow issues, parking will be confined to one side of River Road. Carpooling is encouraged.

Rain Date: If inclement weather occurs, please check KillingtonRec.com for updates.



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The Rutland Area Food Co-op is a community-owned grocery and wellness market situated in downtown Rutland. As a food cooperative, we are owned by a membership base of around 2,000 members. We aim to provide affordable access to high-quality, local, organic and sustainable foods and goods. At the same time, as a mission-driven, community-oriented business, we proudly strengthen our region by carrying products of more than 180 local businesses. 77 Wale St. Rutland. rutlandcoop.com 802-773-0737

LIQUID ART COFFEEHOUSE & GALLERY *Liquid Art*

Relax in the warm atmosphere at Liquid Art. Look for artfully served lattes from their La Marzocco espresso machine, or if you want something stronger, try their signature cocktails. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, they focus on healthy fare and provide you with a delicious meal different than anything else on the mountain. liquidartvt.com, (802) 422-2787.

MAPLE SUGAR & SPICE VERMONT *Sugar and Spice*

Stop on by to Sugar and Spice for a home style breakfast or lunch served up right. Try six different kinds of pancakes and/or waffles or order up some eggs and home fries. For lunch they offer a Filmore salad, grilled roast beef, burgers and sandwiches. Take away available. www.vtsugarandspice.com 802-773-7832.

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The Back Country Café is a hot spot for delicious breakfast foods. Choose from farm fresh eggs, multiple kinds of pancakes and waffles, omelets or daily specials to make your breakfast one of a kind. Just the right heat Bloody Marys, Mimosas, Bellini, VT Craft Brews, Coffee and hot chocolate drinks. Maple Syrup and VT products for sale. Check Facebook for daily specials. 802-422-4411.

MOUNTAIN TOP INN & RESORT *Mountain Top Inn*

Whether staying overnight or visiting for the day, Mountain Top's Dining Room & Tavern serve delicious cuisine amidst one of Vermont's best views. A mix of locally inspired and International cuisine – including salads, seafood, poultry and a new steakhouse menu - your taste buds are sure to be satisfied. Choose from 12 Vermont craft brews on tap. Warm up by the terrace fire pit after dinner! A short drive from Killington. mountaintoppinn.com, 802-483-2311.

killington market *Killington Market*

Take breakfast, lunch or dinner on the go at Killington Market, Killington's on-mountain grocery store for the last 30 years. Choose from breakfast sandwiches, hand carved dinners, pizza, daily fresh hot panini, roast chicken, salad and specialty sandwiches. Vermont products, maple syrup, fresh meat and produce along with wine and beer are also for sale. killingtonmarket.com 802-422-7736 or 802-422-7594.

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Sushi Yoshi is Killington's true culinary adventure. With Hibachi, Sushi, Chinese and Japanese, we have something for every age and palate. Private Tatame rooms and large party seating available. We boast a full bar with 20 craft beers on draft. We are chef-owned and operated. Serving lunch and dinner. Delivery or take away option available. Now open year round. www.vermontsushi.com 802-422-4241.



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Solutions From page 9

Crossword

		H	U	P	A		A	E	O	N	S			
E	R	A	S	E	R		B	A	T	O	N	S		
R	E	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	O	R		A	B	
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Sudoku

2	6	1	7	8	9	5	4	3
4	5	9	3	1	2	7	8	6
8	7	3	4	5	6	2	9	1
6	9	7	5	2	8	1	3	4
5	4	8	6	3	1	9	2	7
3	1	2	9	4	7	8	6	5
7	3	6	8	9	5	4	1	2
9	2	5	1	6	4	3	7	8
1	8	4	2	7	3	6	5	9

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Speedy—1-2-year-old.
 Neutered male. Siamese.



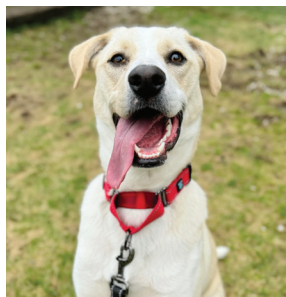
Betty—1-year-old.
 Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



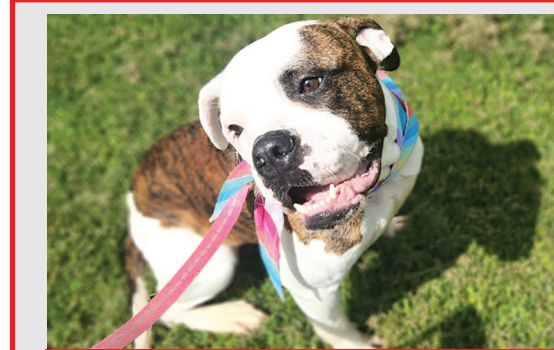
Ginger—7-month-old.
 Spayed female. Hound mix.



Benji—2-year-old. Neutered male. Catahoula mix.



Dotty—1-year-old.
 Spayed female. Husky/ Shepherd mix.



PAYTON

Payton—2-3-year-old. Spayed female. American Bulldog.

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Taki—2-year-old. Neutered male. Pit Bull.



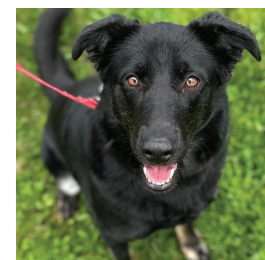
Reese—2-year-old.
 Spayed female. Hound mix.



Opal—5-year-old.
 Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Ronan—4-5-year-old.
 Neutered male. Shar-pei mix.



Lilly—4-year-old.
 Spayed female. Lab mix.



Oscar—2-3-year-old.
 Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.

GOT NEWS?

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Cosmic Catalogue



Aries
March 21 - April 20



This isn't the time to be coerced or pushed into something you do not want to do. This is even more the case if it means going outside your comfort zone when it comes to money or what makes you feel confident. There are times for taking a risk and seeing what you are capable of and then there are times for staying within what is safe and known. Choose the latter.

Leo
July 21 - August 20



There's no task or challenge too small when it comes to your career or what you want to achieve in the world now. That being said, chances are you could upset the apple cart with other people either in your personal or professional life. What gives? Absolutely nothing! This isn't the week to pander to what other people want or expect from you. Stick to your guns. It will be hard at first but you will be rewarded later.

Sagittarius
November 21 - December 20



Just when you thought the dust had settled in one area of life, it's likely to get kicked back up again. Now that you know this, you'll need to double down on getting organized and figuring out your priorities. If you allow yourself to get distracted, then chances are you'll miss the opportunity to win an important battle. Also, do lean into the support you have around you to help get you through.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20



All systems are a go when it comes to putting a personal goal or pursuit in place. You may feel increasingly energetic and / or decisive too. As you reclaim a sense of personal power, do be sure to not cave in to groupthink or whatever other people want from you. Being liked and being respected aren't the same thing. Difficult choices are only difficult in the short term and you need to be thinking beyond the here and now.

Virgo
August 21 - September 20



Opportunities tend to multiply when they are seized. Right now, you've got so many wonderful options out there that could really open up so many new avenues for you. The downside of this is your tendency to over analyze and think things through too much. This is a disadvantage now. Instead, just decide and do. Figure out the finer points later. If you don't strike while the iron is hot, you'll miss out.

Capricorn
December 21 - January 20



As life presents you with so many opportunities to work hard, it may be making you busier than you'd rather be. What about some fun? Some enjoyment? Spicing up your life a bit? Luckily, you do have Mars arriving in your happiness and joy zone. You do also need to make living the good life a priority too. Carve out the time required to do more of what you love and with whom.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20



On the one hand, you've got so much action in your own sign. You may be feeling optimistic and capable of attracting whatever it is you want and need into your sphere. While on the other, you may need to withdraw at times and reconsider where your efforts and energy are really going. If you're really curious about something, carve out the time you need to understand it deeply and not just at face value.

Libra
September 21 - October 20



This could be a challenging time for you. Reason being, when it comes to love and intimacy, you tend to gloss over things, preferring the fairytale rather than the nitty gritty aspects of relationships. You've been trying so hard to change up your life, your habits and attitudes. This week may be a test of sorts. How much vulnerability are you willing to expose yourself to emotionally, sexually or even financially? Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Aquarius
January 21 - February 20



You do need to tackle any challenges you're going through in your domestic life. This week could bring up hidden dynamics at home. It could also just be about your enthusiasm to deal with any projects you've been putting off. In other words, whatever comes up – practical or emotional, don't bury your head in the sand. A proactive approach will serve you best now. That said, do avoid bulldozing other people into your plans and ideas.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20



In this day and age where the ethos "of you're either with us or against us," it would be easy to fall into that trap with a friend, community or on-line group. It would also be easy to give in in order to belong or to not ruffle feathers. Don't do that. It may feel like the right choice at first. However, if you're not honest and direct, you only hurt yourself in the long run. See both sides, but don't fall into taking one.

Scorpio
October 21 - November 20



Be careful what you wish for this week as you may just get it. As your patron planet, Mars, arrives in your relationship zone for the first time in two years, dynamics will change. If you've got the right intentions, things can really work in your favor. If you're creating drama around you, then things will likely backfire. Honesty is always the key to happiness, especially during the times when it is least comfortable.

Pisces
February 21 - March 20



For some time now, your curiosity has been piqued. That being said though, did you do anything about it? If you haven't and instead, just been wondering about something, now is the time to take action. Book that short distance trip. Buy the book. Sign up for the course. Do that self-development workshop. Whatever it is you've been putting off, it's now time to make it a priority and turn it into something truly transformative.

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Cassandra has studied astrology for about 20 years. She is an international teacher of astrology who has been published all over the globe.

Power isn't a dirty word

There's a certain kind of power in recalcitrance. It's not so much about being stubborn. Rather, it's more about defiant, yet righteous, disobedience. A refusal to co-operate. To not bend nor stretch to others' ideas and opinions or what they want from you.

And when I say "power," c'mon, it's 2024! Surely you're not equating power "patriarchy," "colonialism" or what other hashtag has become popular to abdicate responsibility. Do not sell yourself so cheaply. It's a power within. A certainty. A deep knowing of what one's inner desires are. Power isn't a dirty word.

Unless you hold your own place of power

within, you'll be susceptible to external forces of power. You know, those people who have unconsciously subjected themselves to being victims. Oh no, not this week! This isn't the week to be a victim to whatever it is you're salty about. It sure isn't the time to bend to the will of the popular vote either. In fact, this is the week to find your brute strength and unleash it.

Might there be consequences? You betcha! Though ask yourself what those consequences might be if you don't. This week, do not flag nor fail. Go to the end. To the nth degree. Never back down. Never give up.



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

A summer storm



Green Mountain Tales
By Izzy Gieder

I watch the lightning illuminate the night sky, a brief trick to daylight. I jump at a loud clap of thunder. The water runs off the windows in little rivers. I see the mud rush under the tires. The rain sounds like it will break through the roof at any minute. Just as soon as it started, the rain slows and the clouds part to reveal the moon, bright and round, smiling down to earth. I open my door to the damp air and the spring peepers' screams of joy.



How severe flooding impacts aquatic life

July 2023 was the hottest month ever recorded worldwide, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Rising temperatures associated with climate change have dramatically increased atmospheric moisture, causing more frequent and severe storms. During the Great Vermont Flood of July 10-11, 2023, at peak flow more than 4 billion gallons of water entered Lake Champlain per hour, eventually raising the water level by 3 feet and reaching a record level on July 23. In New Hampshire, a full summer's worth of rain fell in July, and the state issued 38 flash flood warnings, exceeding the previous annual record of 36 such warnings.

Floodwater erodes riverbanks, transporting enormous volumes of sand, silt, and loam. Silt coats the gills of fish and aquatic insects, clouds the water, and reduces sunlight reaching the river bottom, where it is essential for growth of the algae that form the base of aquatic food chains. While aquatic species are adapted to recover from annual spring flooding, the increased severity — and unseasonal timing — of floods like the 2023 event can cause lasting damage.

"During major flood events, in-stream habitat changes significantly," said Jim Deshler, an aquatic biologist at the Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation.



The Outside Story
By Michael J. Caduto

"Large boulders are mobilized and rolled downstream, wood already in the stream is picked up and relocated, and stream banks fail, adding sediment and new wood to the channel."

Flood surges damage and uproot plants in aquatic and riparian habitats and scour algae from rocks. Macroinvertebrates and fish caught in flood waters are forced downstream, and may become stranded in floodplains or die, according to Deshler.

Bottom-dwelling insects, worms, crustaceans, and other lifeforms are adapted to survive

seasonal flooding, and can recover over time. Upstream populations can be crucial for repopulating depleted insect communities downstream as insects walk, fly, or "drift" down with the current. Mayflies, midges, and blackflies recolonize quickly after floods, but caddisflies, flatworms, and amphipods are depleted from local aquatic communities for a time.

Despite these species' ability to recover, however, frequent and extreme flooding decreases species diversity and significantly increases the recovery time for many species.

Deshler's team surveyed seven sites immediately after the July 2023 flood, and monthly through October 2023, and then compared their findings with numbers

TOS→ 30

Charles Wallace the Magnificent, a tribute — part 1

Editor's note: Bruce Bouchard is former executive director of The Paramount Theatre. John Turchiano, his friend for 52 years, was formerly the editor of "Hotel Voice," a weekly newspaper on the New York Hotel Trades Council. They are co-authoring this column collaborating to tell short stories on a wide range of topics.



By Bruce Bouchard and John Turchiano

I have always loved dogs — other people's dogs. An early trauma in my life was the steadfast refusal of my parents to give me a "damn dog"; and boy were they awful about it. I felt it to be an abdication of parental responsibility, I howled. "I want a dog!!"

"Well, yuuu ain't gettin' wun" said my mother in her Alabama accent.

Most of this bad dog mojo was the result of what happened to the family dog — yup, we did have one, early on in my life, before I was fully aware of his

existence. His name was Barney. He was a hyper cocker spaniel. We were in Dad's new Plymouth (which, no kidding, he had won with a raffle ticket that cost him \$5!!) driving from Pueblo, Colorado to Los Angeles, California to start a new life. The year was 1951. I was 3 years old at the time and, as I said, was not fully with the program of the family dog. He was "tightly wound" as my dad used to say. When, on our trip, we stopped at a little country store to buy sandwiches for the road, Barney bolted out of the car window and disappeared into the nearby forest.

I clearly remember the trauma and the upset following Barney's brazen leap; my mom running in circles, hands on either side of her head as if she was shutting out a loud train blasting through a station. My sister, 6 years older than me, crying and biting her knuckles, and my dad's voice — deep in the forest pleading for Barney to come back, over and over and over. We waited three hours. He never did.

My parents made plans with the owners of the country store to be on the lookout for him, so that we could plan to get him to California. Weeks and then months went by with no word. "More than likely," my father told me, in an effort to quell my anxiety ("Where's Barney?"), "he found a new home on a ranch, or a farm and the new folks loved him up."

I was a little resentful about that incident and re-lived Barney's flight through that window over and over. How could it be that the dog could jump out the window? Should the window have been half up? Should the dog have been tethered somehow inside the car? Maybe he didn't like us and wanted to escape.

As time went by the sadness deepened. I thought about him a lot, the dog I hadn't the chance to get to know — cause I was pretty certain that once I knew what I was doing, once I was acclimated, I'd have loved him up just fine.

There were a number of dogs since that I loved vicariously. My best friend from the 7th grade was named Steve (everyone called him Crammit). This nickname came about as a result of his older brother Mike, smacking the back of Steve's head, with the flat of his hand and saying, "CRAM-mit, Crammit!!" A ghastly nickname, but it sure stuck, like the word "Groovy" a few years later. Anyway, Crammit had a dog, with an equally colorful name, Spooker. He was the sweetest little guy, he looked like a ball of twine, with floppy ears and curious eyes, always ready for a roll on the carpet, a lick of your face, or a chase of the ball in the back yard. I loved that little guy and cared for him a number of times when the family went away.

Spooker and I had a nearly 10-year lovefest, right up until the day that Steve's father, Charley→ 32



By Bruce Bouchard
Charles Wallace the Magnificent

A labor of love

My son just graduated from high school. By my decree, the day after the ceremony, he started his first 40-hour workweek. The goal was not to force him into a career, it was simply my way of immersing him in the reality of what it feels like to be beholden to a job for five days a week.

He's worked at a local grocery store for the past four years (he's actually the longest tenured employee at that location, which is a sad statement on how hard it is to hold onto people). He only worked Sundays during the school year, while occasionally picking up extra shifts over the holidays.

Over the past couple summers, I've insisted that he work at least 20 hours a week, mostly to offset the money he spends on food and activities. But now that he's now an official "adult," I am adamant that he acts like one.

Most of the time, he works the self-checkout area but occasionally they throw him outside to collect carts and empty the trash. It's good honest work, but not something most people would want to make a career out of.

Which is why I'm making him do it.

During the couple months between his recent graduation and a gap year adventure that he's starting in the fall, I wanted him to face the harsh reality of working a service job for long hours. My hope is that the indignation of the experience would impress upon him a desire to find a vocation that aligns with who he is and what he is interested in.

I've told him on countless occasions: If you don't make a plan with your life, life will make a plan for you... and you may not like what life has planned.

I worked at a record store in the mall during the summer after I graduated high school. I was so happy to have the job because I loved music. However, I learned quickly that standing around an empty store for hours making minimum wage was not how I wanted to spend my life. Luckily, I made the most of it by perfecting my hacky sack skills and reading trade magazines.

During two college summers, a local teacher hired me to help him paint houses. He was a good guy who basically left me alone to do my share of the work. He was only critical with me about one thing: I was a perfectionist when it came to scraping paint off clapboards. He wasn't wrong. There was something inside of me

that never felt complete as long as I could see peeling paint.

He, on the other hand, barely had time for scraping. On occasion, I'd walk past his work and see fresh paint dripping off flakes that I could easily pop off with my fingernail. It drove me crazy.

He used to say, "Perfection is the enemy of the good enough!" after he critiqued my day's work. And he was right. The guy was trying to make a living and being slow cost him money. I was just there to earn funds for partying later in the year.

I learned a couple other things during those summers. The first was how physically draining it is to climb up and down a ladder all day. Even the act of standing on a ladder for hours at a time — usually in the hot sun — was exhausting.

I also learned that certain jobs come with great risk to your health. On more than one occasion, I nearly toppled off a ladder while reaching too far to dab paint.

And then there was the time I climbed onto a slate roof in order to get to a hard-to-reach spot under the soffit. While inching my way down from the ridge, I started to slide on the slippery surface (of course, I wasn't wearing the appropriate footwear, which was on me). I had had enough time to realize that I was going to go over the edge, which intensified the fear. However, in the luckiest moment of my life, I tumbled straight into a soft compost pile that the homeowner had been dumping in for years.

After that experience, I made up my mind that I didn't want to die or be bored on the job. And if I didn't get serious about my future, I may not have a choice in the matter.

I decided to go backwards in time for this week's feature, which was released right around the period I was painting houses. "The Big Chill" is the story of a group of college friends who reconvene after 15 years when one member passes away. Their ensuing weekend together unleashes the pain and frustration of conforming to the world they used to fight so hard against.

This is a beautifully smart comedy featuring an all-star cast of that time period, including Glenn Close, Jeff Goldblum, Kevin Kline, and William Hurt. If you remember this one fondly, given it another try. If you never seen it, you're in for a treat.

A hardworking "B+" for "The Big Chill," now available to stream on Amazon Prime. *Got a question or comment for Dom? You can email him at moviediary@att.net.*



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Secrets of early summer

Shhhh. Don't tell anybody, but this is one of my all time favorite weeks of the year. The one where I make myself so exhausted that I am asleep before my head even hits the pillow. The one where I am up with the sunrise for no reason except that I cannot wait for the day to start and the adventures to begin. The week where I simply cannot get enough time outside, exploring the gorgeous mountains around me that have exploded with luscious green over the past few weeks that we've been drowning in the greatness that is Superstar in the spring.

That's right, one of my favorite weeks of the year is the one where I finally take my head out of my absolute favorite mountain and start looking at all of the other green mountains surrounding it. All of them. I want to travel through all of them, getting to know their nooks and crannies just as well as I know the ones of Killington.

I start closely, keeping my on foot adventures close to home. I've started by running to the big rock on Pesky Cairn trail and back. It's only 2 miles, but it is short enough that I can run fast enough for my hair to flow behind me and keep the bugs away.

Tomorrow I will get lost in the Sherburne Trails and then maybe next week, I will be ready for a lap on the Betty Loop (I always get lost around the five point intersection).

I can feel the trails calling me, my body waiting to flow through the woods of summer just as we had all winter long. Swinging my hips around protruding trees and focusing on the quickness of my feet as I avoid getting a rock in the instep. My body is never quite ready, my legs are still heavy from the power work of ski season, but my feet are light without those damn plastic ski boots. My legs will get lighter and move quicker over the next few weeks, but for now everything is new and challenging and exciting.

But I know my little world will keep growing. Even as I walk Ramshead with a good friend, we are already planning a trip up Camel's Hump and a journey to the Robert Frost Trail to read poetry while we walk through the woods. I'm thinking about a trip up Mt. Mansfield and all the times that I'm going to let myself get lost in Pine Hill Park just so that I can find myself again. Another friend and I are getting ready to paddle Harriman Reservoir and with an

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Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

Summer vacation for students in the 50s

Whether it's 2024 or 1954 kids share the enthusiasm that comes from being on school vacation during the summer months. However, the way that their free time is spent has few similarities.

As often happens when my weekly breakfast group gets together we take a "look back" at various things and recently we recalled what we did during our school vacations. Here are my own memories and some of theirs.

I grew up on Howard Avenue and back in the '50s there were many empty lots on our street and some streets in our current neighborhood didn't exist back then. Of course, there were no electronic devices to entertain us. We had to entertain ourselves! Hopscotch was a popular game among the girls. Sometimes we drew the required 10 squares with chalk on a paved driveway and other times we drew them in the road. There were not a lot of cars on our street back then so the times were minimal when we had to get out of the road. We followed the rules as we hopped from square 1 to 10 throwing a small rock on the appropriate square as we moved along. It was actually a great way to practice balance as there was a lot of time spent on one foot!

Jacks was another game that was popular. You need 10 jacks which are 6 pronged metal pieces and a small bouncy ball. You bounce the ball just once and pick up one jack the first time, then two the second time, etc. The goal is to eventually pick up all 10 jacks with only one bounce of the ball. This was a game of "eye and hand coordination" for sure! A flat sidewalk was the perfect spot outdoors. On a rainy day porch or kitchen floors worked great.

My parents owned the side lot next to our house. The front half was a lawn and it was a great place to play croquet. When we got bored with that a badminton net went up and everyone took turns playing. Even some of the parents on the street took part in those activities along with their children.

The back half of the side lawn was a big vegetable garden and "hide and seek" among the corn stalks was always a fun time. I think I inherited my love of gardening from my father!

Summer was also the time to hop on our bikes and head to Pete's Market on Terrill Street. Popsicles were usually our choice on a hot day. We sat on the steps of the market and ate them before heading home. As I recall they cost a nickel!

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Looking Back
By Mary Ellen Shaw



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June: 'bloom where you are planted'

June is usually thought of as the beginning of summer. School is out, we open our summer houses and maybe plan a vacation. I was given a book called "The Big Book of 30-Day Challenges" written by Rosanna Casper. It sat on a table for a long time with me just looking at it every day. I did not want another challenge, let alone chapter after chapter full of them. Finally, one night last week I opened it and I was surprised. It's a book of ideas. Ideas to help you explore the things that interest you. I can build new behaviors and create healthy habits



Senior Scene
Gerrie Russell

that stick. I can become productive, creative and inspired. The power of discipline, self control and the development of good habits are lessons to be learned. All six chapters sound wonderful. I can choose between challenges in fitness, food, self care or maybe organization and productivity. I'm not really excited about this! However, June is the perfect time to bloom where I am planted so I am going to grow, thrive and be brilliant by working my way through this book.

I often mention books and that infers reading such books. There is value in reading. After all, a good book can teach us about a subject, take us around the world or just let us get lost in a story. Reading a book is a great way to relax. Believe it or not there are scientific backed reasons for making reading a regular part of your daily routine. Finding ways to relax and destress in today's fast-paced world is a real challenge, but important. Reading is a tool and can cause a significant reduction in stress. That benefits our heart rate and blood pressure. Reading a book can help you sleep better. The various devices that are out there are great but they can trick your bodies natural sleep cycle making it hard to fall asleep.

A plain old fashioned book does not have this downside and can relax you into a good night's sleep. Reading a book keeps our mind active and engaged. Reading is a great way to give your brain the workout it needs. Any kind of reading is good but to slow down cognitive aging, try something challenging. Reading can also increase your empathy. Stories are a great way to walk in someone else's shoes and give you a new perspective. A longer and happier life is a goal for all of us and after adjusting for a lot of variables, book readers were found to have advantages. If you don't currently read a lot, joining the Sherburne Library's Book Club is a good way to start. The group meets monthly and the discussions are interesting but not intimidating. This month's selection is "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks. This is a historical fiction novel about a book conservator named Dr. Hannah Heath and her extensive research on the history of the Sarajeva Haggadah. Copies are available at the library and the group will meet on Wednesday, June 26, at 1 p.m. to discuss. If you're asking "what is the Sarajeva Haggadah," come check out the book and join the club!

The rare surviving 1%

Fact: 99% of the people born between 1929 and 1946 (globally) are no longer with us. If you were born in this time span (age 77-93) you are one of the rare surviving 1%. You are the last generation who spent childhood without television. Telephones, if you had one, were one to a house and hung on the wall in the kitchen. Internet and Google were words that did not exist. You weren't neglected but were free to play outside. You felt secure in your future. You were the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our country. World War II was over and the cold war, terrorism, global warming and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life.

You grew up in the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better.

Eat bananas

Here are 10 impressive health benefits of a bunch of bananas. First, they are a powerhouse of nutrients. A banana is like a natural multi-vitamin. A medium sized banana contains about 9% of the recommended daily intake of potassium, which helps to regulate blood pressure. A diet rich in bananas is good for your heart. Bananas can make you feel good because they contain dopamine. The carbohydrate in a banana offers energy for athletes and the high fiber content can help with weight management. Bananas are not rich in calcium but they aid in the absorption of calcium. Vitamin A protects your eyes and maintains normal vision and you guessed right if you think bananas are a good source. So the next time you are in the grocery store pick up that yellow curve of fruit and take another step toward good health.

Library offerings

Sherburne Library has several events planned just for seniors this summer. Storytime will be Thursday, June 20 at 1 p.m. Gaming is July 18 at 1 p.m. and Laughter is scheduled for Aug. 22 at 1 p.m.

The regular Monday Matinee will start again this month with the usual popcorn. They start at 1 p.m.

The first outdoor summer concert on the library lawn will be Thursday, June 27, featuring Bloodroot Gap.

Lessons abroad, Vermont recharge

Building a Killington Dream Lodge, part 17

What a difference a year can make. I was really excited about the changes taking place in our Killington ski lodge while I was away attending Schiller College Paris my sophomore year and Graz Center for the second summer. Meanwhile, in Vermont once the roof was done, Dad worked inside, regardless of weather, building a staircase, preparing for plumbing, electric wiring, and installing reclaimed kitchen and bathroom cabinets while I was off in Paris and Austria. It was 1970.

I received a half tuition work scholarship to attend Schiller College on the Avenue de Ségur in a mansion near Napoleon's Tomb, Les Invalides. I worked the reception and student library. Students came from all over the world, like a mini United Nations.

Our director was a hero from the French Resistance who escaped a Nazi concentration camp in Yugoslavia when he was 13.

He invited famous figures to speak like André Malraux, author and France's first Minister of Cultural Affairs under President Georges Pompidou. Our professors were professionals in their areas, like an Austrian UN diplomat who taught international relations.

He said, "The greatest contribution to the world you can make is to solve the global refugee crisis."

My French literature class met in a café in the French tradition of Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Camus, Hemingway, Picasso, and the Surrealists. Paris was our classroom.

My friend Gigi and I shared a room in a modest hotel on the Left Bank. We dined on market fruit and yogurt and an occasional café plate of steak and peas or an omelette with French bread and mustard (our vegetable). Since culture surrounded us and student tickets were cheap, we attended musical and theatrical performances.

One of my favorite discoveries was Shakespeare and Co, an English language bookstore in the Latin Quarter that Sylvia Beach opened in 1919. It was frequented by Gertrude Stein, Hemingway, Scott Fitzgerald, James Joyce (who Beach published), and carried banned books in the '20s. The bookstore closed when Sylvia Beach was imprisoned by the Nazis but reopened years later under a new owner. I loved to make a cup of tea upstairs, lounge on a sofa, and absorb the vibe, like in Vermont's varied café-bookstores where the written word is also treasured.

We thrived exploring Paris, from the Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Latin Quarter alleys, to our favorite museums. The Louvre covered the classical eras, Monet's "Water Lilies" covered the Orangerie's walls in the Tuileries Gardens, and the nearby Jeu de Paume held my favorite Impressionists. Our college was blocks from the Musée Rodin.

Bridges across the Seine River were significant in history and design like Proctor, Vermont's stunning marble bridge. Paris' wide

tree lined boulevards, gardens, parks, and the Bois de Boulogne offered natural retreats like the Green Mountain State. Another similarity was the abundance of free thinkers, artists, writers and intellectuals with diverse, stimulating, inspiring viewpoints. Like Paris, Vermont was ahead and set trends for the rest of the nation.

I traveled to Austria to continue my summer studies at Graz Center, but first stopped at Zelle-am-Zee to summer ski on Kitzsteinhorn Glacier. It was a glorious sunny day. The Austrian Alps sparked against blue sky. The slope was challenging. Its edges weren't obvious like at American ski areas. I skied past a sign "Achtung spalten!" and soon learned it meant "danger, crevasse." I found

my way back through an avalanche area.

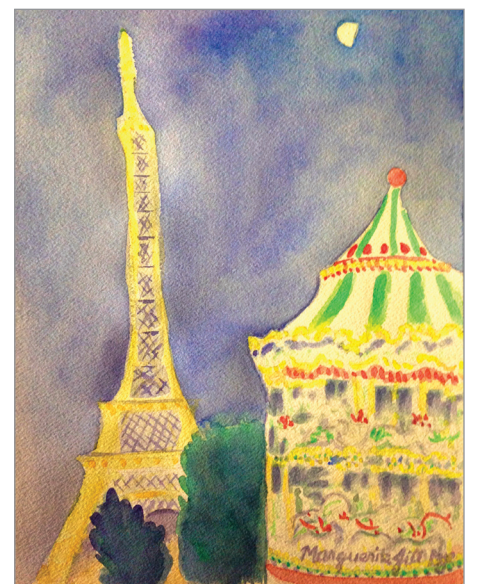
That afternoon, dark clouds blew in, covering the sun and limiting vision. I could barely see six feet ahead of me. Then the thunder and lightning began. I started to side step up towards the cave that led to the ski lodge elevator. At the cave entrance, I held my skis, out of breath at 12,000 feet.

A sudden explosion and flash of lightning blew out the cave lights and shocked me through. I began to shake, terrified but alive. My rubber-soled ski boots saved my life.

Graz Center was much calmer. Between weeks of classes we traveled to Yugoslavia to an international folk festival with colorful costumes, lively dances and music from Yugoslavia's six republics, two autonomous regions, and other nations. We were serenaded on the violin in Budapest, by the King of the Gypsies, Sandor Lakatos.

I flew home to spend a month with my parents. Vermont recharged my batteries, as always, and prepared me for my junior-senior year.

Marguerite Jill Dye is an artist and writer who divides her time between Vermont and Florida. She loves to hear from her readers at jillydystudio@aol.com.



By Marguerite Jill Dye

← **Senior Scene:**
from page 28

Our “Thoughts on Aging” group will meet on Wednesday, June 19. The topic will be the tools we use to keep ourselves safe and connected. There’s more to living our best life than going to doctor visits and taking our proper medications. This group has tackled tough topics each and every month. We all speak our mind and no one is judged for their opinion or lack of an opinion. All are welcome. Just bring an open mind and the promise that nothing said leaves the room.

Our weekly luncheons will continue on Thursdays through June. Then starting in July we will move back to Wednesdays. Remember we start at 11:30 a.m. and the cost is \$5. It’s always nice to give the Lookout a round number so let me know if you are planning to join us.

Also look into Universal Class where you can access over 500 courses! Go to the library website (sherburnelibrary.org) and find Universal Class under the catalog and databases tab. Click on the picture, type in 257510 and then add your library card barcode number with no spaces. Put in your name, email and choose a password. Now you will have access to over 500 courses. There is no reason to be stuck in a rut when whatever we thought we wanted to know about is available to learn!

Three important types of movement

Some say walking and doing so many steps each day is the best thing we can do for ourselves. Now fitness gurus are advocating for three types of movement. The first is still walking, stretching and bending. The second is athletic movement. Third is social movement, such as dancing, that we do for fun or to connect with others.

It’s important to think of movement in these three categories because our lives have become sedentary. We have so many muscles and tendons that we have to add things to basic walking. Loose pliable muscles mean better balance and stability. Some suggest exercise “snacks” like doing 10 squats every time you get a drink of water. Attach movements of any kind to things you do every day. You are probably saying “we have heard this before” and you would be right. However, I doubt many of you have heard of toe yoga.

This was new to me, but, as I read more, it makes sense. Toe yoga is focused on stretches and exercises that will make your toes stronger and more flexible. That translates into better balance and posture. Our feet really have our back and the rest of our body. They are our foundation and always under a lot of pressure. Toe yoga is various stretches and exercises that enhance foot strength and circulation. Look it up and see what you think.

Remember reach out to each other and be grateful. Love who you can. Help where you can and give what you can. Enjoy the month.

← **Living the Dream:**
from page 25

other at Emerald Lake.

It’s so marvelous to be wrapped up inside all these beautiful green mountains. We took the motorcycle up Route 100 to grab some smoked wings at Mad Taco in Waitsfield and I already cannot wait to rip up and down App Gap. And then Lincoln Gap. And Brandon Gap. And Middlebury Gap. Ahhh! There are so many ways to find yourself winding through the mountains. To find yourself rolling along with the rolling hills, whether on foot or two wheels. Or even four.

But it’s time to start exploring and dreaming. The skis are all wiped down and lying against the wall where they will stay for the four and half months. Ugh. That sounds painful and I shouldn’t even have thought about that. Painful because ski season seems so far away, but also painful because we only have 18 weeks before we fall back into the addictive abyss of winter.

I want to explore something new this year. Maybe a new section of the Long Trail that I haven’t hiked before? I haven’t done a lot of exploring in the Northeast Kingdom and I’ve never paddled Lake Willoughby, which is kind of sacrilegious to have lived in Vermont this long without

doing. Ahhh! I am so excited for all the adventures within a couple hour drive from our little town of Killington. You can get everywhere from here!

Of course, now I have to make sure that I have all the right equipment. Looks like it’s time to break out the summer-time gear spreadsheet and make sure that I have everything set in my backpack. Pretty sure I need to take a motorcycle ride up to Farm-Way and trade in my Darn Tough socks. I’ve already stopped at Maple Angus for the best maple creemee in the state, now to make our way over to Maple Soul at least once before the snow flies.

Only 18 weeks to explore the almost 4.6 million acres of Vermont’s forests. I better start running a lot faster or I’m never going to cover enough ground to see everything in my lifetime. Vermont, I love you so much and cannot wait to see what we’re doing together tomorrow!

Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, town lister, development review board member, local realtor^(R) and coach PomPom. She can be reached at merisa.sherman@sothebysrealty.com.



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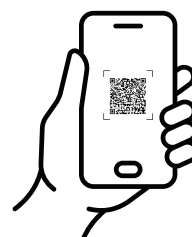
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← **TOS:**.....
from page 24

documented during pre-flood sampling. Immediately after the flood, they found an 86% decrease in the density (or total number) of organisms and a 23% decrease in the richness (number of unique species). Dresher said the densities returned to expected levels by October, with larger streams recovering more quickly than smaller streams. He said this was likely due to upstream populations of aquatic species continuing to drift downstream.

The Vermont Dept. of Fish & Wildlife survey on the impacts of 2011's Tropical Storm Irene on brook trout populations sheds light onto how severe flooding impacts fish. Post-flood populations of older trout in the Mad River and Dog River watersheds in north-central Vermont were 41% to 64% lower than pre-flood numbers. Immature fish were especially hard hit; more than 60% of the population was depleted in some locations, while in others the immature trout were wiped out.

"Young fish are generally more susceptible to being lost during flood events, specifically the ever-important young-of-the-year," said Dresher "Mortality of adult trout occurs also, especially in a flood at the scale of the one we had in July 2023. Trout populations are expected to recover in 2 to 3 years if habitats are left intact after flooding."

He noted that human responses to flooding — including removing wood and channelizing (straightening, dredging, and

confining) streams and rivers — pose the greatest threat to aquatic organisms. "Historic stream channelization decreases flood resiliency, leading to higher flood levels downstream," Dresher said. "A stream that is incised and channelized is like a firehose, sending all the water downstream at a high rate of speed, inundating downstream communities, and eroding stream banks upstream."

The post-flood period is an opportunity to observe what streams and rivers are telling us about their dynamics, and to restore habitat in a sustainable way to help prepare for future floods. Protecting and restoring floodplains provides space for storing and slowly releasing floodwaters. Improving habitat and flood resiliency are critical to preserving aquatic life — especially as floods become more common, severe, and unseasonable.

"It's important to remember that we all live in a watershed," said Dresher. "The actions a community performs on a local stream have an effect on our upstream and downstream neighbors."

Michael J. Caduto is a writer, ecologist, and storyteller who lives in Reading, Vermont. He is author of Pond and Brook: A Guide to Nature in Freshwater Environments. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.

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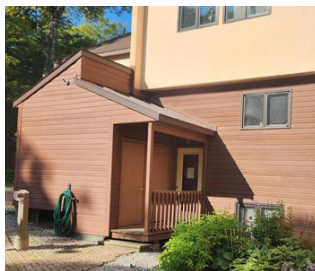
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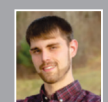
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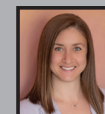
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Charley:
from page 24

Jim, drunk on Manhattans, jumped in the car to hit the liquor store and squashed that little Spooker into a bloody gray pancake! Another dog trauma — and ooooooh boy it was one to behold! How Crammit loved that dog! His howls of grief could be heard two blocks away. Things were rough with Crammit and Jim for a good while after that...until, that is,



Courtesy Bruce Bouchard
Brigitte Ritchie, owner, Golden Huggs Rescue, was Godmother of Charley.

he got a monkey, but that is a chaos story for another time.

The demise of Spooker was on a sultry summer day in 1965. The demise of Crammit was May 30, 2004, killed by a deadly melanoma — his fourth. He was a pale skinned Irishman who refused to wear long sleeves on the golf course.

Fast forward: 42 years after the Spooker pancake, I found myself in Vermont at our beloved Paramount Theatre and I thought that this might be the place where I could bring a dog to work every day, the schedule in presenting was far less demanding than producing, or any of the other theatres I had run, and well maybe, just maybe...

On my first week on the job, after some research, I made a cold call to Brigitte Richie at Citizens Bank in Burlington. She was the top dog in giving and all other external affairs at the bank. We hit it right off on the phone and she told me she would be coming through Rutland that Friday and asked if could we spend time together. She is a tall striking blonde, of German descent and regal bearing. We spent nearly the entire day together, sharing our love of the arts, laughing with abandon, and me defining my vision for the future of the Paramount. That led to an initial generous sponsorship gift of \$10,000 and then another the next year — to my great surprise, a substantial increase to the top “Gold” season sponsor at \$25,000.

The next year I thought it best to make my way up to Burlington, pay obeisance, and visit her on her turf, and learn more about her. I walked into her corner office, resplendent with flowers and tasteful décor. I was struck by a large number of dog rescue pictures and awards on the walls. She sat smiling serenely at her desk.



Courtesy Bruce Bouchard
Uncle Harry holds Barny in 1951.

“Brigitte, what is all this?” Arms wide acknowledging the pictures and awards.

“Oh Bruce, banking is my avocation, my true love is my dog rescue business, called Golden Huggs. By the way, Bouchard, do you have a dog?”

“Uhh, um...no I don't — I love dogs, but...ah,um... I have always loved other people's dogs.”

“Well, do you like getting money from the bank?”

“Oh, yes, ever so much, and all of us in Rutland are very grateful.”

“Well, let me put it to you this way, you will not get one more thin dime from the bank until you choose (keystroke and then a turn of the computer screen) one of these dogs...come over here and look through the pictures of our beautiful dogs...take your time...I've got all afternoon,” and she swept out of the room.

She didn't need to blackmail me because I was all in and growing more excited by the minute. I found him on the fourth page and as soon as I looked him in the eyes, I knew that was the guy! A 70-pound yellow English Lab, big head, big chest, and little legs, bred by the English to run after birds under thickets. You might remember the English Lab in “Downton Abbey” named Isis. The name of this English Lab was Charley, a name I wasn't about to change.

We made our arrangements quickly, set for pick up two weeks hence. Charley would be arriving in Manchester, New Hampshire, on a transport truck traveling from Kentucky to the northeast (an odd factoid in the dog rescue business: a dominant number of abandoned dogs come from the south. I wonder why?)

Later that day at our departure I hugged Bridget and thanked her profusely. She had knocked down the last pin standing in the way of finally getting my own damn dog. The adventure was about to begin.

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KILLINGTON ONE BEDROOM fully furnished and equipped \$800 per month plus utilities, No Smoking, No Pets. Call 802-422-4658..Text 201-965-4667.

Garage Sale

MULTI FAMILY GARAGE SALE MENDON. 520 Journey's End, Mendon, VT. Multi family garage sale Saturday ONLY June 15. 8-4 only. Many high end items and lots of smalls too. Golf clothing, dirt bike, antique fridge, taxidermy, furniture pottery barn jute rug, drapes, linens, beach cruiser bike, lots of adult clothing, massage table, older chooses, small ryobi table saw, coolers, (2) zero gravity chairs, brand new in box double stainless sink, much much more.

YARD SALES

KILLINGTON. Saturday 6/15 & Sunday 6/16. 84 Saunders Knoll Rte 4, Killington Flats. 9 a.m to 5 p.m. Lots more items added. Furniture, antiques, knickknacks, kitchen country appliances, tools and more. Also, FREE Items.

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TOWN OF
KILLINGTON
VERMONT

Request for Qualifications for Construction Services Town of Killington –Town Hall Renovation Killington, Vermont

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Town of Killington ("Owner") is seeking qualified Commercial General Contractor ("CGC") firms for remodeling the New Town Hall ("Project") in Killington, Vermont.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project scope involved building an indoor stairway to connect 2 floors, installing a vault for the Clerk's Office, and removing a section of wall on the first floor. Nehring & Associates Architectural and DeWolf Engineering Associates were hired in 2023 to examine the needs and have produced architectural and structural plans.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Interested contractors shall provide the following items and in the following order:

- Cover letter
- Similar project experience
- Completed bid form
- Other information, qualifications and/or exceptions as each contractor may consider appropriate to the selection process
- No more than 3 pages front and back

Submit proposals in PDF format to:
townmanager@killingtontown.com (Michael Ramsey, Town Manager)

Cover letters addressed to:
Michael Ramsey
Town Manager
Town of Killington
2706 River Road
Killington, VT 05751

Proposals must be received via email no later than 4:00 PM on July 5, 2024.
The full RFQ can be found at www.killingtontown.com under bid opportunity.

Request posted: May 29, 2024

Looking Back:

from page 25

Indian Rock at the top of Howard Avenue was our picnic spot. The neighborhood kids named the rock and why we chose that name I have no idea!

A wooded area behind one of the houses on Howard Avenue was the perfect spot for a summer camp made out of boards and old rugs. Things went missing from our parents' garages and workshops as we built our camp. My father had more tools and nails than some fathers so he had more missing items that I had to retrieve when he discovered they were gone.

By the late '50s we were old enough to ride our bikes to the city pool on North Main Street. It was a two-lane road back then but we still needed someone to help us cross the highway safely. Many of us took morning swim lessons. The braver of us went off "the tower" which was a relatively high diving board. I was never among that group! A favorite memory is the small building near the city sidewalk where you could get frozen goodies such as Charleston Chew Bars along with many other yummy choices.

Summer day camps in various neighborhoods were run by the City of Rutland Recreation Dept. Contests, games and crafts made for a fun time.

If you liked horses Hendee's Stables on North St. Extension was the place to be! There was a large paddock to ride around. Some of the more experienced riders were allowed to go on trails outside the paddock. The most gentle of the horses was Susie — who was categorized as a "work horse." I was matched up with that horse and even Susie could sense that I didn't belong in the saddle. She turned around and headed back to the stables with me still on her! I had to duck my head going in. That was the end of horseback riding for me.

Each night after dinner all the neighborhood kids headed outside and played until the 10-of-9 whistle blew. That was when we knew it was time to head inside. As an adult in the summer I no longer have to head inside when the whistle blows but it has a different meaning. I am already inside and the whistle now tells me that it will be bedtime soon. Oh, to be young again!



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